



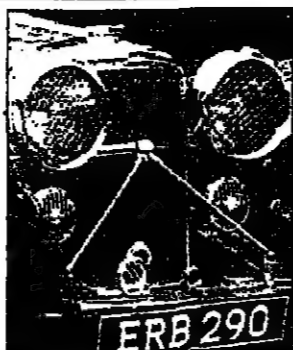
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MARQUE'S LANDMARK

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IN THE PICTURE

In tomorrow's Review: What lies in store for this term's art students

City hails 'ingenious' defence

Lamont guards sterling with £7.25bn shield

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND COLIN NARBROUGH

THE Treasury yesterday built a massive reinforcement of the government's defences for the pound in an effort to avoid a damaging interest rate rise at all costs.

In a move that took the financial markets by surprise, Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, announced plans to borrow about £7.25 billion in foreign currencies from a group of international banks to keep sterling squarely within the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The foreign currency funds, the lion's share of which will be in German marks, will be used to buy pounds, backing up the Bank of England's normal inter-

vention to prop up sterling. The total amount to be borrowed corresponds to roughly a third of Britain's existing official reserves and it will not have to be repaid for three years.

The plan, which was greeted as ingenious in both City and political circles, rallied the pound and stock markets. At the official London close, sterling was up almost a penny at DM2.7975, nearly two pennings above its ERM floor. Sterling later rose well above DM2.80, its highest level since the recent pressure on the pound began.

The stock market assumed that the move virtually ruled out any devaluation within the ERM and strongly reduced the risk of an early interest rate rise. The FTSE-100 index of leading shares surged to 2,381.9, up 68.9, while gilts jumped half a point.

The move also represented a defensive wall in case the French vote against ratification of the Maastricht treaty on September 20 and throw the markets into turmoil. Mr Lamont said: "These arrangements demonstrate once again the government's clear determination and ability to maintain sterling's position in the ERM at the existing central rate, regardless of the outcome of the French referendum."

Ian Taylor, chairman of the Conservative Foreign and Commonwealth Council, said: "This is a shrewd move with perfect timing ahead of tomorrow's meeting of European finance ministers. The clear message is that the government is putting its money where its mouth is in defence of sterling within the ERM. It will have a double impact because it is also a way of reducing upward pressure on UK interest rates."

However, MPs also suggested that the move indicates government concern that the pound is still under great pressure, which may increase before the French referendum.

Last month, the Bank of England used up \$1.28 billion of its gold and foreign currency war-chest of \$45 billion to prevent the pound from tumbling to the ERM floor. This allowed sterling a respite and City fears that the government would be forced to raise interest rates started to recede. However, currency dealers still feared that, if the French rejected Maastricht, there would be an effective devaluation of the pound.

The plan announced yesterday foresees the Bank of England taking up about DM10 billion, or half the total amount, this month from a group of British and

foreign banks, led by Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and National Westminster. Half of the DM10 billion will be drawn upon in the next few days, with the rest probably following the French vote. Next month, the bank will announce details for the remaining half of package. The pounds which the government will be able to buy will be used to help reduce the government's borrowing needs in the present fiscal year, which should relieve pressure on interest rates.

At a press conference yesterday to launch next week's London conference on "Europe and the world after 1992", Tristram Garret-Jones, the Foreign Office minister of state, said John Major would use his keynote address to underline Britain's commitment to Maastricht and his belief that the treaty was good for Britain and the EC. However, Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday stepped up pressure for Britain to pull out of the ERM and for it to reject ratification of Maastricht.

John Butcher, a former minister and MP for Coventry, said that there was a growing belief in Europe that Maastricht would exacerbate tensions when, what was needed was a Europe "at ease with itself. Such a Europe cannot be built if Maastricht interventionism and continued membership of the ERM impoverishes our peoples, causes greater than necessary unemployment and produces those economic and social tensions which usually succour extremism," he said.

Nicholas Winterton, the maverick Tory member for Macclesfield, called for an "urgent reappraisal" of economic policy. He said that the economy was "on the brink of collapse" and accused the government of "sitting back". Mr Winterton complained that Britain's industries were being sacrificed upon the altar of Euro-dogma and urged rejection of the treaty and a readiness to leave the ERM.

● In a speech at Korea University yesterday Lady Thatcher issued a warning against the creation of super-states. She said that one of the main lessons of modern times was that artificially created states, such as Yugoslavia, or empires held together by Communism, like the former Soviet Union, fall apart, sometimes violently. "An attempt to create a European super-state... would fuel nationalism and risk conflict," she said.

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The new girl: Natasha Mihaljevic, the nine-year-old smuggled out of Sarajevo by television reporter Michael Nicholson, being welcomed by new friends yesterday at St Bartholomew's Church of England School in Haslemere, Surrey. "I like school. It's good," she said

Sarajevo aid airlift halted by crash

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

THE United Nations last night suspended its airlift to Bosnia after an Italian aircraft crashed as it flew aid into the besieged city of Sarajevo.

The plane, with four Italian crew members, was carrying blankets for refugees. It was spotted by an American helicopter, a UN official said. A spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which is co-ordinating the relief operation, said the wreckage was seen 20 miles west of Sarajevo, near the town of Jesenik. There was no immediate word on whether those on board had survived.

Four American military helicopters and seven armoured personnel carriers and two armoured ambulances had joined a search in a mountainous area firmly under Bosnian Croat control.

Earlier yesterday, a UN convoy carrying food and medicine from Sarajevo reached Gorazde for the first time since Serb forces lifted their siege of the devastated eastern Bosnian town.

Marrack Goulding, the UN's undersecretary-general in charge of peacekeeping, arrived in Sarajevo to oversee an agreement by which the Serbs have pledged to gather heavy weapons around Sarajevo into 11 places from where they will be monitored by the UN.

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'Humbling' bankruptcy for Maxwell

BY ANGELA MACKAY

KEVIN Maxwell, 33, youngest son of the late newspaper tycoon, Robert Maxwell, became Britain's biggest-ever bankrupt yesterday and said he hoped that the thousands who lost their pensions last year would "take real satisfaction" from his "very public humbling".

Mr Registrar Scott made a bankruptcy order against Mr Maxwell for £406.5 million after a petition filed by the liquidator of Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM). The company was the manager of most of the Maxwell company pension funds,

and Robson Rhodes, the liquidator, is now trying to recover some £420 million missing from the funds.

Outside the High Court, Mr Maxwell said: "I stand here bankrupt with a deal of humility. Bankruptcy is a very public humbling. If there is a redeeming feature of the bankruptcy order, it is perhaps that the thousands of people who have suffered loss can take real satisfaction from seeing a former director — and I suppose, above all, a Maxwell — suffer the consequences of their loss personally and in public."

"Perhaps those concerned believe this alone justifies the cost to creditors of these proceedings, given the very small extent of my estate and my assets."

The bankruptcy order follows a summary judgment for £406.8 million obtained by the liquidator against Mr Maxwell in July for his alleged breach of duty as a director of Bishopsgate.

Mr Maxwell said: "Bishopsgate's pursuit of my bankruptcy has been misconceived. Continued on page 14, col 6

Biggest bankrupts, page 2



French falter under Maastricht deluge

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

WAITING for the great Mitterrand television show yesterday, France was treated to another deluge of conflicting advice on Maastricht and a bout of indignation over the presumption of foreigners who dared tell citizens how to vote in the referendum.

Two new surveys added to the sense of polling overkill that is wearying the electorate. One showed the "no" vote rising again to a narrow majority after six reports this week tracked a return to "yes".

The Aviale company said 52 per cent were aiming to vote no, compared with 48 per cent for yes. Another by the Sofres company showed the rating of President Mitterrand sinking further, with that of Pierre Berégovoy, the prime minister, In another piece of election-

cering, Michel Sapin, the finance minister, offered the prospect of lower mortgage rates and economic revival provided voters fell into line behind a "yes".

Uncertain voters of almost every persuasion could take their pick from a menu of contradictory advice. Businessmen were told by François Perigot, the head of the CNPF bosses' union, that Maastricht was the sine qua non for future prosperity, while several senior industrialists have been arguing the opposite. On Wednesday, the CNPF gave up the idea of endorsing either side.

The main squabble yesterday erupted around the bar-

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Russia's angry writers struggle to be despised

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

THERE was a full vodka bottle on the table. Mussorgsky on the turntable and someone had even managed to produce a shabby copy of a rediscovered existentialist novel for discussion and a small vat of red caviar for sustenance. But the mood was subdued and the earnest faces gathered at one of Moscow's monthly literary salons were long — almost as long, in fact, as the list of complaints about the indifferent world outside.

"We feel as if our sense of purpose has been pulled out from under our feet," said Aleksei, who works in a publishing house and writes verse in his spare time. "We have become emigrants in our own country," added Sasha, a jazz musician, mournfully. "We are considered a harmless, self-obsessed sect these days."

In short, Russia's *bien pensants* are

nowadays suffering the worst fate that can befall intellectuals anywhere — they are being ignored by the rest of the population. They are feeling the chill all the more keenly for having been brought up in a society in which poets such as Yevgeni Yevtushenko could fill football stadiums after the Khrushchev thaw and where, even in the liberal Gorbachev days, intellectual discourse excited robust controversy.

Magazines such as *Literaturnaya Gazeta*, which enjoyed a vast readership in the second half of the eighties as a mouthpiece for glasnost, have found that their impact and subscriptions have shrunk in the past year. Educated Russians now prefer to argue about economic reform and the political rough and tumble around President Yeltsin than meditate on Alexander Solzhenitsyn's bleak vision of humanity.

When the grand old man of literary dissidence appeared in a two-part tele-

vision interview this week, calling on society not to forget atonement for the communist years and railing at the new pragmatism in his homeland, the response was less than enthusiastic. Six months ago, the sole talking point of salon gatherings such as this was whether or not Solzhenitsyn could be prevailed upon to return and what effect this would have. Nowadays even the intellectuals are aware that the focus of concern has changed.

"Solzhenitsyn could easily find himself without a role if he returned," said Viktor Erofeev, one of new Russia's leading writers. "My son came in from school after the first day of term and told me that *Cancer Ward* is now on the syllabus. Of course, it is important that our children should become acquainted with dissident literature, but as soon as they have to read it at school it will lose some of its appeal and the authors will



Solzhenitsyn: his books are on school syllabus

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Leaked papers set out BBC plans for radio and TV 'innovation'

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC plans to restore its pre-eminence in drama as the "National Theatre of the airwaves", re-establish itself as the "principal innovator and pioneer in comedy and light entertainment", and schedule wide-ranging news and current affairs programmes throughout peak time, a leaked copy of its long-awaited blueprint for survival in the twenty-first century has disclosed.

The document, meant not to be published until after the government's green paper next month, also contains plans to banish "non-stop Top 40" pop hits from Radio 1, and to make Radios 3 and 4 "more accessible" to a wider range of listeners.

Approved in its draft form by BBC governors and senior management, the policy paper rejects more radical proposals from within the corporation's ranks for scrapping whole programme strands. Leaked to the trade paper *Broadcast*, the policy document will be revamped before publication to include a response to the government's green paper, which will be published by David Mellor, the heritage secretary, next month. Legislation is due in 1994.

The conclusion of the corporation's 18-month review of its

role, aims and values in the newly-competitive television marketplace, the document's surprise unveiling comes just days after Michael Grade, the Channel 4 chief executive, attacked the BBC hierarchy for obsessive secrecy about future policy and said that governors and senior management risked marginalising the corporation out of existence.

Although the document says that the BBC will "withdraw from areas in which it is no longer able or needed to make an original contribution", it appears to refute Mr Grade's claim that the BBC will turn its back on popular programmes.

"To go down this route would be to preclude the majority of licence payers from viewing and listening to programmes and services which they value and appreciate. It would be to force publicly-funded broadcasting in Britain into the kind of 'cultural ghetto' approach which has so weakened the broadcasting system in the United States, Australia and elsewhere," the document says.

Instead, the BBC of the next century should offer a wide range of "distinctive, high-quality programmes in each of the major genres." The document said: "That range should

emcompass programming that appeals to a broad viewing and listening audience, as well as programming which meets the specific needs and interests of smaller audiences."

BBC1 must deliver distinctive programmes to a large audience, ensuring that high-quality news and current affairs, accessible arts programming and major documentaries about British life, history and culture, are broadcast during peak time. It should also develop "large-scale" programmes to mark national events. Religious, educational and children's programming will also occupy a significant place in the schedule.

BBC2 will "challenge and surprise and set out to change the general public perception of what television can do". It must ensure that innovative and "risk-taking" programmes are scheduled in peak time, while also "stimulating the development of British culture and entertainment" by commissioning new writers, composers, performers and programme-makers. In this way, it will serve as "the seedbed for new talent, ideas and programmes, which will later find a larger audience on BBC1", the document says.

Maxwell follows infamous footsteps

Richard Ford charts the history of some of Britain's most spectacular bankruptcies

KEVIN Maxwell, the youngest son of the disgraced newspaper tycoon Robert Maxwell, yesterday entered the history books as Britain's biggest bankrupt.

Until the end of the two-hour private hearing at the High Court in London, the title had been held by Rajendra Sethia, who was declared bankrupt with personal debts of £140 million in 1985. At the time Mr Sethia won a place in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

The Indian businessman was the head of the London-based Esal Commodities group, which crashed in 1984 owing at least £200 million. In March 1985, Mr Sethia, 40, was arrested in Delhi but in spite of being wanted for questioning by Scotland Yard, never returned to Britain.

In 1979, William Stern became Britain's biggest bankrupt, with debts of £118 million. His property business fell in 1974 with £143 million debts and he was declared bankrupt five years later.

If Mr Maxwell wants consolation, he need only look at Mr Stern's comeback. His return to property development followed the decision by the High Court to discharge him from bankruptcy in 1983, with a two and a half year suspension. His family had put up a contribution of £500,000 to pay off creditors. Under the terms of the court order, he was discharged from bankruptcy having paid only a fraction of his personal debt.

Others have not been as fortunate. John Bloom, whose washing machine company folded owing £2.5 million in 1964, has experimented with restaurants in Los Angeles, media road shows across America and hair tonic. He moved from California to Majorca in 1979 — one step ahead of the English liquidators who served bankruptcy papers on him for £172,000 in claims dating back to the collapse of his company.

Asked five years ago whether he was rich, Mr Bloom replied: "Ask my wife, she's the one with the money."

Maxwell humbled, page 1



Maxwell: biggest bankrupt with £406 million debts



Bloom: company folded in 1964 owing £2.5 million



Stern: made a comeback after debts of £118 million

Ford chief asks ministers for help as slump continues

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD has put its main British plants on a monthly production review to decide whether thousands of staff should continue on short-time working. The company said that it could see no revival in new car sales for up to a year.

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford of Britain, has told ministers that selective support for motor manufacturers and the construction industry is now vital to Britain's recovery from recession. Ford already has its two main manufacturing plants at Dagenham, Essex, and Halewood, Merseyside, working short-time until the end of this month. Unless there is a dramatic upturn in sales, there seems little prospect that they will return to their normal output.

The scale of the recession in

the industry, which employs 800,000 people directly in car manufacturing, will be outlined today when the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders produces figures to show that sales for August, which usually account for 25 per cent of annual output, are expected to be about 370,000, only 2,000 up on last year and well below industry hopes for 400,000 or more. The society believes that total sales for this year will be about 1.55 million, worse than the 1.59 million of 1991 and the lowest for ten years.

Mr McAllister appealed for further investment in the construction industry, including road-building and other infrastructure, which would provide a spin-off for vehicle builders and increase employment.

He also said that the removal of the 5 per cent special car tax was now vital. Ford would be forced to "cut its cloth" according to the demands of the market, he said. He warned that the biggest export markets for British-made cars — Belgium, France, Italy and Germany — were also starting to turn down.

"The motor industry needs help," he said. "It is not a question of helping manufacturers but there are 800,000 people directly employed in the motor industry and many more who depend on it for their livelihoods."

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Last year's jobless cost £2bn

By TIM JONES

WITH the unemployment figure forecast by some independent analysts as likely to exceed 3 million, the cost to the government of the 391,000 who have lost their jobs in the past year may have been more than £2 billion.

That figure does not include the £2.3 billion a year spent on training programmes, although some of it will be included in the £11.8 billion spent on income support, claimed by 4.8 million people. The increasing cost of sustaining an unemployed workforce now standing at 2.7 million is being used by the Opposition parties to criticise John Major and his cabinet colleagues.

Although precise figures are elusive, the assumption is made that the people who lost their jobs at the rate of more than 1,000 a day between July 1991 and July this year had average gross weekly earnings of £284. Assuming national insurance contributions of

COST OF UNEMPLOYMENT	
New jobs lost Jul 91-92	391,000
Net loss & tax foregone	£1,341,706,680
Amount spent on unemployment benefit:	
- Single people	£909,073,200
- People with adult dependent	£108,782,000
Total cost	£2,250,513,880
Calculated using the April 1991 average wage of £284	

£21.82 a week and income tax payments of £44.17, the loss to the exchequer is calculated at £1.3 billion. Weekly unemployment benefit of £43.10 for a single person and £69 for a person also claiming for a dependent adult would cost almost another £1 billion.

Although Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, said the July figure of 2.7 million unemployed, a five year record, was encouraging because the rate of increase during the past quarter was the lowest for nearly two years, it is clear that August's figures could be worse. Recently 700 job losses were announced at Jaguar, 1,400 at Swan Hunter, the Tyneside

shipbuilder, and last night Yarrow, the Clyde shipbuilders, announced that 500 jobs are to go.

Earlier this week, Nat West's chief economist, David Kern, added to the government's worries by forecasting that unemployment in Britain would rise to a 3.1 million peak by December 1993 and still be 3 million by the middle of 1994. A stark picture of steeply rising youth unemployment was painted recently by the Unemployment Unit and Youthaid charities. They estimated that 888,700 young people — 16.5 per cent of the workforce between 16 and 24 — are looking for work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Church schools urged to opt out

Church of England schools in Southwark, south London, are being advised by the diocesan director of education to seek grant-maintained status. Canon Gerald Greenwood is the first church education director openly to advocate such action. He wrote yesterday to the head teachers of 107 schools, including 11 secondary schools, commending grant-maintained status as "offering a positive way forward for many of our schools".

In a report, part of which is published in today's *Church Times*, he outlines the financial advantages of opting out and advises that the government increasingly sees grant-maintained status as the norm. The diocese covers 13 local education authorities with 25,500 pupils and 1,500 teachers in its church schools. Canon Greenwood says that some schools have been denied essential improvements because of the way that they are funded.

He says that the government's education white paper gives "clear reassurances" that the education secretary will protect the religious character of church schools that opt for grant-maintained status. "Religious education and worship would seem to be secure. The continuing role of the majority church foundation governors is emphasised."

More poll tax in

Councils in England collected almost a quarter of this year's community charge in the first three months of the financial year, according to figures issued yesterday by the environment department. John Redwood, the local government minister, said the figures, for the period from April to the end of June, represented an impressive improvement on earlier years and praised councils for their efforts. In the corresponding period last year authorities collected 12 per cent of budgeted income. The Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said the figures were misleading and there was no sign of any weakening in resistance to the poll tax.

Tanker's waste rejected

An Australian tanker carrying 18 tons of toxic chemical waste attempted to off-load its cargo yesterday at Felixstowe, Suffolk, despite the government saying in June that it was not to be shipped to Britain. The *Maria Laura* docked at 6.30am after trying to unload the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) waste, only part of its cargo, at Le Havre and Antwerp. The ship unloaded its non-toxic cargo and is expected to sail for Cape Town tomorrow. Two Greenpeace inflatable boats and divers had attempted to stop the ship docking. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said: "The government is opposed in principle to the continuing import of waste for disposal from developed countries."

Beer festival 'imported'

Vanessa Darling, a model, right, toasts the first Oktoberfest UK, which will take place in Battersea Park, south London. Organisers obtained the "cultural rights" to the event from the committee of the Munich beer festival. The British festival will be held from October 29 to November 1 in the largest big top in Europe, with 50 German waitresses and nearly 300 tonnes of German beer.



Nine in ten hens lame

Only one broiler chicken in ten is capable of walking properly, a study has shown, which could mean 130 million lame birds in Britain. These have weaknesses in their legs which affect their gait. In more than a quarter, the abnormalities are so serious that they probably cause pain. The lameness is the result of breeding a variety of broiler chicken which puts on weight so quickly that the bird's bones cannot keep up. The problem has been known, but the new study, carried out by scientists at Bristol University and Ross Breeders, of Newbridge, Midlothian, and published in *The Veterinary Record*, underlines how common it is. Even free-range birds are not exempt.

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Photo by G. WILKINSON/SELECT

Teenager fell to her death after 17 glasses of tequila

By LIN JENKINS

A TEENAGE great niece of Lord Hanson fell to her death from a bedroom window after a tequila-drinking competition during birthday celebrations at an Oxford wine bar, an inquest was told yesterday.

Georgina Meinertzhagen, 16, who was studying A-levels at Greens Tutorial College, an Oxford crammer, drank 17 shots of the Mexican spirit during a promotion at the Peir 19 bar.

She returned to her lodgings in St John Street drunk and during the night fell 26 feet to the ground, smashing her head on a discarded wash basin, after leaning out of the second-floor window for air.

Her father, Daniel Meinertzhagen, a Lloyd's name and

former gambling companion of the missing peer Lord Lucan, speaking after the inquest, called for the licensing laws to be rigorously enforced. "It is part of the 1964 licensing act that you are not allowed to serve drinks to people already intoxicated, and these young people, whatever their age, were more than intoxicated, they were roaring drunk," he said.

Mr Meinertzhagen, of Chelsea, London, said he would write to the licensing magistrates about her death, but would not take civil action. "My daughter and her friends did not have a drink problem but when they partyed, they partyed. Although they are 16 and 17 they think they are

grown up. Cheap promotions like this, I'm afraid, only encourage heavy drinking among the young, which is to be regretted. I sincerely hope that they take away their licence."

Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxford coroner, said he would be writing to local licensing justices. Recording a verdict of accidental death, he said: "I do find it extraordinary that alcohol in such quantities should be served to young people, whether they were apparently over the age of 18 or not. I have no control over any action the justices may take but I do think it should be drawn to their attention."

Dr Freddy Patel, a Home Office pathologist, said Georgina had 214 milligrams of alcohol per 100ml of blood, nearly three times the legal driving limit. He said she died of a fractured skull and multiple injuries. "A teenager would have been more affected than an adult because if one is not used to taking alcohol regularly one is more affected by it," he said.

Friends told the inquest about the drinking contest during birthday celebrations at the wine bar in February. Jamie Grant said: "We started out buying shots of tequila, five at a time. The barman pointed out that we would be better off if we bought a whole new bottle. We bought one for about £15, the equivalent of 50p a shot, but went back to buying shots of five soon after. I drank 20 shots of tequila and Georgina had 17. We were keeping track of how many we had each."

He said Georgina was very drunk when they left. "It was one of the happiest occasions on which I had seen her and she was in a very good mood."

Paul Farrow, 17, her boyfriend, said plans to go to a nightclub were abandoned because they were so drunk.

Louise Bolton, 18, who shared Georgina's flat and had not been to the party, said she helped the couple to bed. "They were completely incoherent. They could not speak, they were just totally drunk," Georgina fell asleep on the floor and she helped her on a double bed and put a cover over them.

Two people in the flat recalled hearing a loud crash at about 1.30am, but did not investigate. Georgina was found ten hours later by the cleaner. Det Sup David Belcher said it was concluded that Georgina fell while getting some air.

Son 'confessed murders to uncle'

By DOMINIC SEARLE AND STEWART TENDLER

RODERICK Newall, the former army officer arrested while sailing his yacht for the murder of his wealthy parents in Jersey in 1987, confessed to the killings during a meeting with relatives this summer and then left Britain, a Gibraltar court was told yesterday.

Describing Mr Newall as a dangerous man, John Blackburn Gittings, the Gibraltar attorney-general, told a magistrates' court that if police and crew from a British frigate had not arrested Mr Newall in international waters he might have gone to Brazil like Ronnie Biggs, the great train robber. The court was told that after his arrest Mr Newall said that he had thought of trying to grab a gun.

Details of the alleged confession and the arrest were disclosed yesterday by Mr Blackburn Gittings during applications to free Mr Newall, who faces extradition proceedings. The court was told Mr Newall has been refusing food in protest at his treatment in a Gibraltar prison.

Judge Felix Pizzarello rejected an application by Chris Finch, acting for Mr Newall, that he should be freed on the grounds that his arrest had been unlawful. The judge also refused bail, saying that he would consider it only when he had heard more evidence.

Mr Blackburn Gittings said Mr Newall had left the army in 1988. In July this year he

called at the home of an aunt in Fulham, southwest London, then went to see his grandmother in North Berwick, Lothian. On July 14 he met his father's twin brother Steven and Gaye, his wife, at the Dunkeld House Hotel near Perth.

The attorney-general said that during a three to four hour conversation with them, Mr Newall made statements amounting to an admission that he had killed Nicholas and Elizabeth Newall. Mr Blackburn Gittings said that the court would see statements from Steven and Gaye Newall. The attorney-general said that Mr Newall had been arrested by Brighton police for speeding. He was later followed by police, but they lost him. "Of course, he would look out if he had confessed and knew he was being followed," said the attorney-general.

The Crown alleged that Mr Newall had used his military anti-surveillance techniques to lose police and had left on his boat on August 4. He sent a letter to a friend in London, through private post from Paris. It was franked in London on August 6. The alleged note read: "See you in Brazil, but only time will tell."

Mr Blackburn Gittings said this meant Mr Newall had intended to do what Mr Biggs had done — to be difficult to get hold of.



In the drink, Nicola Cripps, 14, left, and her stepmother, Charlotte Ann, 15, treading grapes in preparation for the eighteenth annual English Wine and Regional Food Festival, in Afriston, East Sussex, this weekend. Five thousand people are expected to visit the English Wine Centre, which will also feature a jazz band and face-painting.

Organisers hope that the festival will give an opportunity for those interested in English wine to meet members of the English Vineyard Association. Christopher Ann, one of the

organisers, said: "The event is a key opportunity for the members of the public and also those in the restaurant trade or the wine or supermarket industries to talk with the growers. What one wants to see is English wine being marketed along with other English goods."

"We should be promoting our products by drinking to them with English wine, not French or German. Ninety per cent of English wine will now stand up against many world wines of a similar character."

Watchdog bans Sun 'Diana' phone line

By ALAN HAMILTON

COVERAGE of recent royal scandals in *The Sun* faced counter-attack from two quarters yesterday, with the banning of a tape recording and the issuing of a writ for libel.

A telephone industry watchdog has censured the newspaper for offering its readers a chance to hear a recording of an intimate conversation said to be between the Princess of Wales and her friend James Gilbey. After 11 days and over 100,000 callers, the service was withdrawn yesterday on the orders of the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Telephone Information Services.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, chairman of ICSTIS, said in a ruling that the newspaper had disregarded the code of practice for such services, which made clear that there should be no unreasonable invasion of privacy. There was no positive identification of the voices on the tape, but privacy had been invaded regardless of who was speaking. He added that no provider of such a service, mindful of its duty to comply with the code, could sensibly have thought that it was reasonable to breach the obvious confidentiality of the conversation.

Last night the newspaper announced a new number on which the tape could be heard at ordinary telephone rates, in an attempt to circumvent the ruling of ICSTIS. *The Sun* plans to challenge the ban in the High Court today.

Also yesterday, Major James Hewitt, another friend of the Princess, issued a writ for libel against News Group Newspapers, publishers of *The Sun*. The writ refers to claims in Tuesday's paper said to have been by Emma Stewardson, a former girl friend of Major Hewitt, about an alleged relationship between him and the princess.

Senior Metropolitan police officers are moving a sergeant from protection duties with the children of the Duchess of York following the publication of pictures of the duchess on holiday near St Tropez last month. Police sources stressed that Sergeant Graham Ellery, of the royalty and diplomatic protection department, was not being disciplined.

Tennis ball particles may cure tantrums

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

SOME of the tennis balls flying around at the US Open this week are carrying up to five grammes of iron particles.

The balls, the same weight and pressure as normal tournament balls, are part of an experiment that could end the need for the Cyclops line call system used at present. It could also end tantrums of the kind famously exhibited by John McEnroe, prompted by disputes over service, side-line or base-line calls.

The experiment is evaluating a new system called Tennis Electronic Lines (TEL). If successful, it could soon be installed at tournaments world-wide, including Wimbledon. Unlike Cyclops, which uses laser beams to detect whether the ball is in or out, TEL uses electromagnetic waves generated by antennas buried below the court. These interact with the metal powder in the tennis balls to detect where they have landed.

The system, said to be accurate to within five millimetres, is the brainchild of John Baxter, an engineer formerly with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation of Australia, and Bruce Candy, a consultant. More than 20 line-call systems have been studied by the US Tennis Association but have all been rejected in favour of TEL.

Cyclops can make mistakes because of unevenness on a court's surface and bad alignment. It can only be used for service line calls, and can make errors in doubles when a player, rather than the ball, breaks its beam. It is claimed that the design of the TEL system overcomes these drawbacks.

At the US Open TEL is being tested against the calls of the umpire and line judges on four courts. Strip antennas run beneath each court's 13 lines to a depth of 25 millimetres. A microprocessor analyses signals from the antennas, and a voice synthesiser broadcasts the result.

US Open, pages 24, 28

Fake crash victim is doctor's dilemma

ORGANISERS of a disaster rehearsal for medical crews were criticised last night, after an unsuspecting doctor gave a painkilling injection to a man acting the role of a rail crash victim.

Dr Robert Lambourn, of Choppington, Northumberland, saw what he thought was a major rail disaster near a countryside level crossing. Flames leapt from the wreckage of a rail tanker, and 70 dead or dying people from a passenger train were scattered about the scene. Fire engines, ambulances and police cars with flashing blue lights swamped the area, and a police helicopter hovered overhead.

The doctor, who was returning home after visiting a patient, climbed into one of the passenger coaches and administered a shot of pethidine into the backside of a young man with a shattered leg. The truth dawned on him only when the man stopped screaming and turned to ask: "Do we really have to go that far?" before passing out. Hewas taken to hospital for observation.

Supt Howard Grey, of Northumbria ambulance service, said: "The man was a member of the Guild of Casualties, and as such is specially coached to fake injuries. He was lying face down on the floor of one of the trains pretending to be semi-conscious. He couldn't see what the doctor was doing until it was too late."

Dr Lambourn is a partner at the Seaton Hirst health centre, Ashington. His senior partner, Dr John Campbell, said: "It is an absolute disgrace that the authorities did not inform any of the community services, not the doctors or the nursing staff, about this exercise. We had no notification. That's why this confusion happened."

Dr Lambourn said he had been advised not to make any comment, but another colleague said the doctor had since received a letter from the person involved saying there were no hard feelings.

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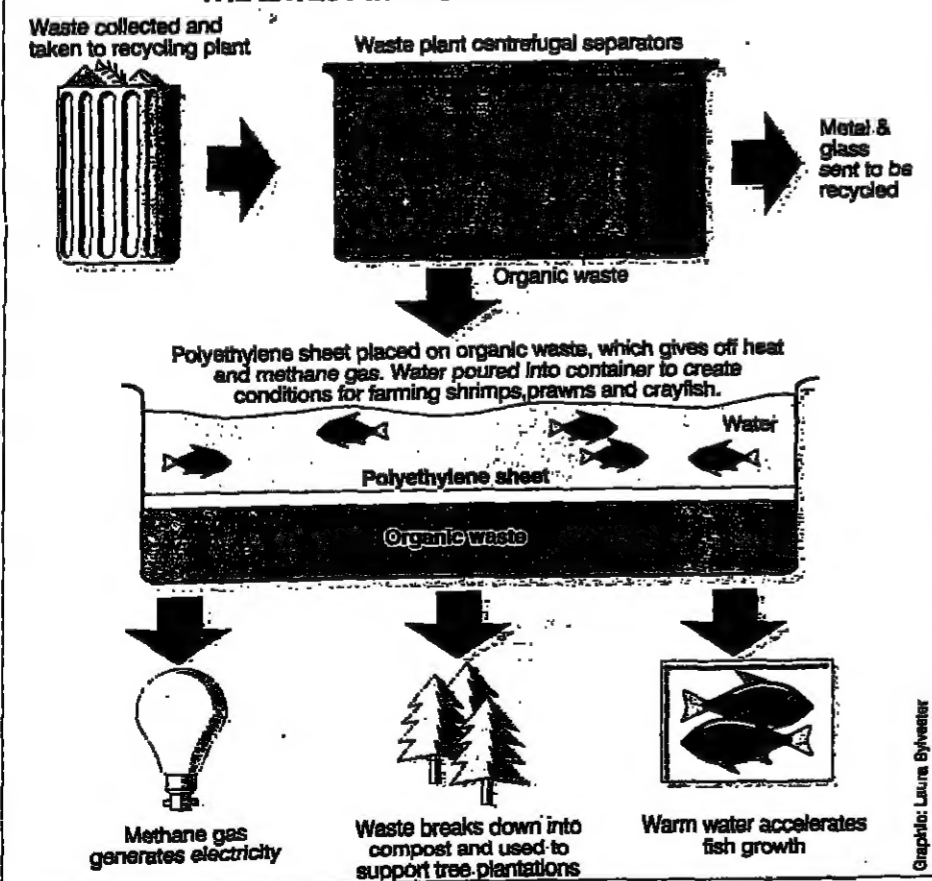
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THE LATEST IN RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY



Prawns to grow from rubbish

By RONALD FAUX

A LOCAL authority is to recycle 98 per cent of its domestic rubbish into energy for producing shellfish, fur trees, fertiliser and electricity.

The borough of Halton, Cheshire, includes the towns of Runcorn and Widnes, better known for environmentally unfriendly chemical waste tips. Halton aims to change that image by becoming the first local authority in Europe to recycle so much of its domestic waste. At present, it recycles only 1 per cent.

A 20-year contract has been signed with Biomass Recycling to set up a complex to which Halton's 40,000 tonnes of domestic rubbish will be delivered. Tony Bar-

rett, the council's development manager, said that organic waste would be processed beneath high-density plastic sheeting, above which a series of lakes would be created. Heat generated by through waste decomposition would warm the water and promote rapid growth of prawns, crayfish and other crustaceans.

The composted material would then be used as fertiliser for new trees on the site. Methane gas produced as a waste by-product would be used to generate electricity.

Mr Barrett said: "All these different technologies are tried and tested but have never been brought together

in one complex. The cost of the scheme runs into millions of pounds, but is covered by the private sector, which will gain income from the sale of gas, electricity, fish and trees. The cost to the council will be nothing, and the project will generate 100 new jobs."

The council's objective would be to recycle 98 per cent of domestic waste by 1995, well ahead of government targets in the Environmental Protection Act.

The investment by Biomass was not disclosed. The main shareholder in the company is Energy Holdings, owned by the Matheson Trust Company, a member of the Jardine Matheson group.

FIGHT HUNGER IN AFRICA.

EMERGENCY

0891 651

Household survey gives snapshot of Britain at work, at play, in sickness and in health

One in four adults has no qualifications

BY PETER VICTOR

MORE than a third of Britain's working population has no qualifications. Of those aged 16 to 69 and out of full-time education, 38 per cent are completely unqualified, 22 per cent have O levels and only 8 per cent have a degree or equivalent.

The figures, released in the latest General Household Survey from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, show that men are more highly qualified than women.

Young people tend to be better qualified than their elders.

In 1990, men were twice as likely as women to have a degree or equivalent qualification (11 per cent compared with 5 per cent). Women were more likely to have reached only O level standard and more likely than men to have no qualifications (41 per cent compared with 34 per cent). The difference is less among younger people. Women were just as likely as

men to have gone on to further education (26 per cent compared with 24 per cent), but were more likely to have studied at a college of further education. Men were more likely to have attended university or polytechnic.

Among survey respondents who were working and had a degree, men were twice as likely as women to be in professional occupations (39 per cent compared with 18 per cent). Only 2 per cent of men of working age with qualifications above A level were unemployed, compared with 10 per cent of unqualified men.

In 1990, 72 per cent of men, but only 41 per cent of women, earned more than £200 a week. Average gross weekly earnings were £260 for men aged 20-69 but only £178 for women.

The data was obtained by interviewing everyone aged 16 or over in a random and anonymous sample of about 10,000 households a year. □ General Household Survey 1990 (Stationary Office, £18.50)



Family profile: 20 per cent of families with children were headed by one parent

More wives and mothers are going to work

MORE married women are going out to work and the number of working mothers is increasing, according to the latest General Household Survey from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys. The percentage of married women in employment or actively seeking work increased from 50 per cent in 1971 to 71 per cent in 1990, bringing it to the same level as for unmarried women.

The number of working mothers fell steadily in the early 1980s to 51 per cent in 1983, but has risen steadily since, to 63 per cent in 1989 and 1990. Single mothers were less likely to be in work than married or cohabiting mothers. In 1990, 42 per cent of single mothers were working, compared with 63 per cent of married or cohabiting ones. Among those who worked, however, a greater proportion of single mothers worked full time.

In 1990, 20 per cent of families with dependent children were headed by a single parent, mostly mothers. The proportion of single fathers heading families remained at between 1 and 2 per cent. The differences in income between single parent families and other families is marked. In 1990, 53 per cent of single parent families lived in households with a weekly income of £100 or less, compared with 4 per cent of cohabiting families.

Families headed by single mothers were the worst off. Some 70 per cent of them lived on £100 a week or less. Only 8 per cent of single parents had a weekly income of more than £350, in contrast to 55 per cent of married or cohabiting families.

The proportion of traditional households — a couple with dependent children — contin-

ues to decline. In 1990, 25 per cent of households were of this type, compared with 31 per cent in 1979. However, 41 per cent of all people lived in such households. A further 28 per cent of households consisted of a married or cohabiting couple with no children, and 8 per cent with older children who were not dependent. Twenty-six per cent of households consisted of one person, accounting for 11 per cent of individuals, reflecting a trend for people to live alone.

□ Increasing numbers of people now own microwave ovens, video recorders and compact disc players. In 1990, 21 per cent of households had a CD player, compared with 15 per cent in 1989.

The proportion of households with microwave ovens increased from 47 per cent to 50 per cent, and 64 per cent of households had a video recorder, compared with 60 per cent in 1989.

The proportion of households with central heating more than doubled from 37 per cent in 1972 to 80 per cent in 1990. Households with a car or van rose from 52 per cent to 67 per cent in that time. The proportion with more than one vehicle increased from 9 per cent in 1972 to 23 per cent in 1989 and 1990.

The survey reports that 66 per cent of households owned their own homes in 1990, compared with 49 per cent in 1971. Then, 27 per cent owned their homes with a mortgage. During the 1980s, there was a steady increase in the proportion of mortgagees, but since 1988 this figure has remained at about 40 per cent.

Eighty per cent of households lived in detached, semi-detached or terraced houses in 1990. Twenty per cent lived in detached houses.

Walking is favourite exercise

SIXTY-FIVE per cent of adults claimed to have taken part in some sport or physical activity in the month before the survey. More than 40 per cent of these listed that activity as walking.

Previous surveys have also found walking to be the main activity, with no other pastime mentioned by more than 15 per cent of respondents.

Only swimming, cue sports (billiards, snooker, pool) and keep-fit/yoga attracted more than one in ten adults in a four-week period on average throughout the year. Excluding walking, the proportion of adults who took part in at least one sport was reduced to 48 per cent for the four weeks before the survey.

Cycling, keep-fit/yoga and walking were the only activities that participants had done twice a week, or more often. Asked to look back over 12 months, however, 82 per cent said that they had taken part in at least one activity.

People who went ice skating, for example, did so on average only twice in the four weeks before the interview. Fewer than 1 per cent had skated during this period but nearly 4 per cent had done so in the previous year.

Men are more likely to have participated in at least one sporting activity. Seventy-three per cent of men had done so in the four weeks before interview, but only 57 per cent of women. The only sporting activity with a significantly higher participation by women was keep-fit/yoga.

Chronic illness up

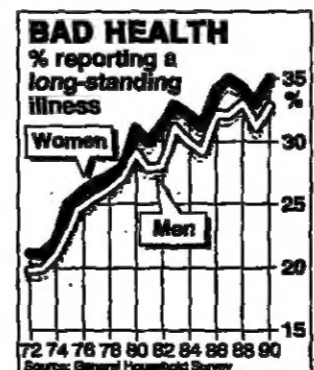
A THIRD of people say that they suffer from long-standing illnesses. The proportion rose from 21 per cent to 34 per cent from 1972 to 1990, the level for women always being slightly higher than that for men.

The numbers reporting chronic sickness increase with age. In 1990, 69 per cent of people aged 75 or over had a

long-standing illness, compared with 34 per cent across the age ranges. There have, however, been increases in all age groups.

In spite of the growth of the private medical sector, only 4 per cent of GP consultations were paid for. Men were more likely to consult non-NHS doctors than women. Of those consultations received by men, 5 per cent were paid for privately, compared with 2 per cent by women. The trend has been for an increasing number of GP consultations over the past two decades.

Those in paid employment are more likely to wear glasses than the unemployed: in 1990, 54 per cent and 42 per cent respectively. Some 63 per cent of men in the professions wore glasses, compared with 40 per cent in unskilled manual occupations. The proportion is highest among professional women, at 70 per cent.



C4 offers record season of films

A budget squeeze has not curbed the scope of Channel 4's anniversary schedule, reports Melinda Wittstock

CHANNEL 4 is to celebrate its tenth anniversary this autumn with its biggest Film On Four premiere season and an ambitious drama called *The Big Bang*, which explores conflicts of religious faith through the eyes of three families, Christian, Jewish and Muslim.

Sixteen films receive television premieres, including Mike Leigh's *Life is Sweet* and Ken Loach's *Riff-Raff*. Arthur Miller's *The Golden Years*, unperformed for 50 years, receives its world TV premiere, while *Cyrano de Bergerac* is to be broadcast in a season of films starring Gérard Depardieu. David Aukin, Channel 4's head of drama, said that 14 more films were in production for future seasons including Louis Malle's *Dance* and new films from Peter Greenaway and Mike Leigh. Six Film On Four films were destined for cinema release in the coming year, including Kenneth Branagh's *Peter's Friends*.

Channel 4, whose programme budget remains static at £184 million for the third year, has been forced to cut its drama budget from £30 million to £28

million. The only casualty, though, is the 4-Play series of plays. Liz Forgan, director of programmes, said: "Like everyone else in the real world we've had to think carefully about our priorities. There's no doubt we've got a tight squeeze, but we hope to keep our range of drama and to sustain the same rate of production."

Overheads have been cut by 5 per cent to free money for programming, but Channel 4's 1993 budget was "conservative" because the channel did not know how much advertising revenue to expect next year when it must compete with ITV for the first time by selling its own advertising airtime. "We don't want to have to be programming halfway through the year," Ms Forgan said.

Viewers will also enjoy a close-up of the royal family's homes in a series on the royal art collection introduced by the Prince of Wales, which starts next month. *The Royal Collection* has been filmed in Balmoral, Sandringham, Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace and Hampton Court.

Charities plead for Africa aid

BY JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

AID agencies yesterday urged the public to give money to help up to 40 million people in Africa who risk starvation as a result of civil war and drought.

The seven agencies have joined together to launch the Africa in Crisis appeal, under the umbrella name Disasters Emergency Committee, which hopes to raise money through appeals in the press, on Radio 4 at lunchtime yesterday, and on BBC and independent television last night.

Dee O'Connell, the committee's co-ordinator, said that the appeal had no specific target. "However, much we raise, the agencies will be able to spend it," she said. The agencies involved are the British Red Cross, the Catholic Fund for Overseas Development, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Save the Children, Action Aid, and Help the Aged.

The United Nations estimates that 21 million are at risk in Eastern Africa, with 1.5 million in Somalia in imminent danger of death. Harvests have been devastated in every country in southern Africa and 19 million people will need food aid this year.

□ Donations to the DEC appeal can be made at any high street bank or post office, by post to PO box 999, London EC3A 9AA, or by telephoning 0891 661 661.

Vision of hell page 6

Hazards of passive smoking exaggerated

Barfly leap may lead to sticky end

MP rebuffed by name-change poll



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Hazards of passive smoking 'exaggerated'

FROM JEREMY LAURANCE IN BARCELONA

PASSIVE smoking may be less risky than popularly supposed, new research suggests. Concern over the effects of breathing in tobacco fumes is prompting the sick to blame their symptoms on other people's cigarettes. But measurements of the nicotine level in their blood shows that they tend to exaggerate the amount of smoke to which they are exposed, and this may be distorting the results of research studies.

Evidence from a study of 2,200 middle-aged men and women in Scotland who had never smoked, presented yesterday to the fourteenth congress of the European Society of Cardiology, in Barcelona, that the incidence of cough, phlegm, chest pain and heart disease, were all sharply increased among those who reported being exposed to "a lot" of other people's smoke. But the strength of the link was dramatically weakened

when the amount of smoke the patients said they were exposed to was checked against the levels of nicotine in their blood. Professor Hugh Tunstall-Pedoe, of Dundee University, who co-ordinated the study, said: "People do not like other people's smoke, and if they have got anything wrong with them they exaggerate their exposure to it. They complain about it but avoid it."

If the same discrepancy had affected other studies but remained undetected, the link between passive smoking and ill health may be less strong than was thought.

Every person in the western world could cut the risk of a stroke by a third and the risk of a heart attack by a fifth if they reduced their blood pressure by between 5 and 10 per cent, doctors told a Barcelona press conference.

The effect is greatest in the elderly, but many doctors assume that treating high blood pressure in the elderly is worthless. "They believe it is no good closing the stable door after the horse has bolted, but it turns out that it has a very good effect," Professor Peter Sleight, of Oxford University, said.

Four recent trials have provided "overwhelming evidence" of the value of treatment, he said. Because the elderly have more strokes and heart attacks than the young, the beneficial effects are more obvious.

Evidence shows that even people with so-called normal blood pressure for western society would benefit if it were reduced. But many of those with high blood pressure are being treated with unnecessary expensive drugs.

Most people, including the elderly, could reduce their blood pressure by taking more exercise, cutting down on salt and alcohol, and losing weight.

"A brisk walk a day is about as good as a lot of these pills," Professor Sleight said. Where drug treatment is necessary, three recent trials have shown that diuretics, which reduce the fluid in the body by stimulating the kidneys to produce more urine, are more effective in reducing blood pressure than more expensive drugs.

The difference in price ranges up to one hundredfold, but nearly half of Britain's GPs prescribe newer, more expensive drugs compared with only a fifth five years ago, because of heavy advertising by the drugs companies.

Health.

L&T section, page 5

MP rebuffed by name-change poll

A Corby referendum has rejected a new constituency name, reports David Young



Powell villages should feel included

NINETY-FIVE per cent of people voting in a referendum at Corby, Northamptonshire, have rejected their MP's proposal to change the name of the constituency. He has denounced the result as unfair and possibly illegal.

William Powell, the Conservative MP (majority 342) since the Corby constituency was created in 1984, has suggested to the Boundary Commission that the name should be changed to reflect its wider area.

A referendum by Corby District Council resulted in 10,212 votes to retain the name and only 687 in support of Mr Powell's proposal. More than 60 per cent of voters in the constituency live in the council area and the referendum turnout was just over 30 per cent, higher than in recent council elections.

The result will be submitted to the Boundary Commission, which is considering Mr Powell's suggestion and is likely to hold a public enquiry in November.

Mr Powell, who lives in Cambridgeshire and did not have a vote in the referendum, argues that as the constituency covers 275 square miles and includes dozens of villages, a more appropriate name would be East Northamptonshire or Rockingham Forest, the name of the an-

cient royal hunting estate which once covered the area. Mr Powell argues that the referendum was unfair because it did not allow everyone in the constituency a vote and that it may have been illegal for a council to use its funds for such a ballot. The district council says that it has taken legal advice and in any case spent only a token sum on a shoe-string publicity campaign.

The council leader, Kelvin Glendenning, said: "This referendum was not of our choice. We were forced into it but the results speak for themselves. They are a clear rebuff to anyone foolish or short-sighted enough to suggest dropping the good name of Corby. They are also an indication of our decision to go to the people on an issue we knew was vital. The people of Corby have rallied magnificently and shown their determination to stand up for their own town, their district, their constituency and their future."



Flight from extinction: merlins in Scotland are learning to nest in forests rather than on heather moors, but still need open hunting ground

Moorland merlins succumb to spell of forest

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE interests of wildlife and those of the Forestry Commission and forestry industry are no longer incompatible, according to a report into the decline of the Scottish merlin published yesterday.

A six-year study of the merlin, which faced extinction in the eighties, says that sensible forestry management and well designed new forests can help preserve en-

dangered species. Merlins were previously thought only to breed in open moorland and dense heather, but research has shown that the birds are able to breed in crow's nests in forests.

Jack Orchel, a London teacher and author of the report, *Forest Merlins in Scotland*, said: "I was once regarded as an arch enemy of the Forestry Commission, but I am now talking about the important discovery that

planted forests have generated a vast nature reserve for all our species. It has been said that the merlin, the golden eagle and other birds have been threatened by forestry, but the issue really is how much open ground adjacent to the forests is conserved." Merlins each require more than 7.5 sq miles of open hunting land.

"This bird is adaptable," he said. "What it has shown is that it can survive in the

forest, but only if nearby open land, which the bird needs to hunt, is preserved."

The merlin population, which was down to 400 recorded pairs in the United Kingdom, has begun to increase and is now estimated at 700 pairs. The report calls for the Forestry Commission to provide grants to the forestry industry to provide rangers to monitor the growth of forests and the breeding areas for birds.

Lord Barber, president of the Hawk and Owl Trust, which published the report, said: "There is still hostility from the public towards commercial forestry, but they haven't realised the lengths the industry has gone to to provide multi-use forestry designs. This report is putting another piece of information in the hands of those whose job it is to build and design forests which will ultimately safeguard our wildlife."

Dazzling Fischer destroys Spassky in opening game

BY RAYMOND KEENE

BOBBY Fischer scored a triumph on Wednesday night in the first game of his revenge match against Boris Spassky in the Montenegrin resort of Sveti Stefan.

The game bore the authentic stamp of Fischer's old genius. Those who had believed that 20 years of hibernation would have blunted the edge of the former champion's talent were confounded by a brilliant game in which Fischer alternated attacks on both sides of the board.

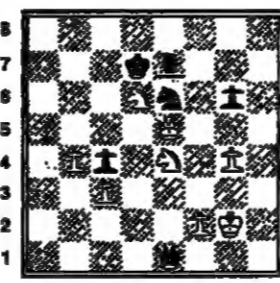
Spassky, who has sunk considerably in the world ranking list, put up a grand fight, sacrificing material at one stage to try to wrench back the initiative. Fischer's victory, playing with the white pieces, came after 49 moves and more than six hours of play.

The opening was the Spanish, or Ruy Lopez, variation that was Fischer's favourite two decades ago. By move 15, Spassky, following the Breyer defence, had established a fortification which would prove difficult to break down.

Experts were predicting that the game was equal and could possibly end in a draw. Around the 22nd move, Fischer proved what an innovative genius he still is. He



concentrated his forces on the extreme queen's flank, building up for a possible invasion. The crowning move was to transfer a knight from the king's side onto a seemingly insignificant square on the other side of the board. Spassky recognised the hidden force and, on the 29th move, he made a sacrifice of a



The final position

knight for two central pawns. After the 44th move Spassky's position was in ruins. His king was open and almost every one of his pawns was unable to be defended.

The Times will be carrying the moves, a commentary and a diagram of the final position after each day's game. The winner is the first to win ten games. The match will be switched to Belgrade as soon as one player has won five games. The playing days, four games a week, are Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

The moves of Wednesday's game are shown below.

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	c5	27 Nf1	Bc7
2 Nf3	Nc6	28 Nf1	Kc7
3 Bb5	Nb8	29 Nf1	Nb8
4 Bxc6	b5	30 Bc4	Ra8
5 Bxb5	a4	31 Bc2	Ra8
6 Bxa4	b4	32 Bc4	Ra8
7 Bb3	a3	33 Bc2	Ra8
8 Bc4	a2	34 Bc4	Ra8
9 Bb3	a1	35 Bc4	Ra8
10 Bc4	a1	36 Bc4	Ra8
11 Bb3	a1	37 Bc4	Ra8
12 Bc4	a1	38 Bc4	Ra8
13 Bb3	a1	39 Bc4	Ra8
14 Bc4	a1	40 Bc4	Ra8
15 Bb3	a1	41 Bc4	Ra8
16 Bc4	a1	42 Bc4	Ra8
17 Bb3	a1	43 Bc4	Ra8
18 Bc4	a1	44 Bc4	Ra8
19 Bb3	a1	45 Bc4	Ra8
20 Bc4	a1	46 Bc4	Ra8
21 Bb3	a1	47 Bc4	Ra8
22 Bc4	a1	48 Bc4	Ra8
23 Bb3	a1	49 Bc4	Ra8
24 Bc4	a1	50 Bc4	Ra8

French join BR in tunnel freight firm

BY MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH and French railways have formed a joint venture to encourage freight distribution companies to switch from road to rail when the Channel tunnel opens in 1993, Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman, announced yesterday.

The venture, Allied Container Intermodal, was an essential element of plans by Railfreight Distribution, BR's freight arm, to carry some six million tonnes of traffic by 1995, Sir Bob said. It aims to remove 400,000 lorry journeys from Britain's congested roads.

Addressing a conference on the future of Channel tunnel rail freight at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre, Sir Bob said that BR was investing £450 million in Channel tunnel freight services, including locomotives, wagons, terminals and track improvements. Despite initial scepticism, the investment programme was on time and within budget, he said.

BR's freight strategy sought to revolutionise distribution by integrating the advantages of rail and road. "We shall concentrate on running half-mile-long trains to Europe's key industrial centres, leaving

it to road haulage and specialist distributors to handle collection and delivery," he said.

"With the capacity available to us in the tunnel we can offer the equivalent of up to 35 continuous miles of freight train moving between Britain and the Continent every day. The traffic will take time to build up but, by 1995, we expect our current European business to increase three-fold to over six million tonnes, which will be equivalent to 400,000 lorry loads a year off the roads."

BR is building a network of nine freight centres around Britain, to reduce journey times between the big manufacturing centres and their prime Continental markets. The combined road and rail terminals, served by up to 35 freight trains in each direction each day, will give BR its first competitive edge over the road network since the advent of the motorway.

Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's chief executive, criticised Britain's preparations for the advent of the single European market and urged the government to overhaul its investment priorities, to provide a modern transport infrastructure.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air ace's VC to be auctioned

The Victoria Cross awarded posthumously by George V to the highest scoring and most decorated pilot of the first world war is to be sold at auction, to the dismay of the Imperial War Museum.

Major Edward "Mick" Mannock, downed at least 73 enemy planes during a dazzling career of "Hun-strafting" over northern France. He was killed when his plane was struck by ground fire in July 1918.

Sotheby's, handling the sale on October 19, expects the VC, which is being sold by Major Mannock's elderly niece, to set a new auction record. A VC awarded to W.B. Rhodes Moorhouse, another first world flying ace, was sold in 1990 for £126,600.

Dr Alan Borg, director of the war museum, said: "I personally don't think it is very attractive to place a value on an act of heroism. All VCs are of equal worth. I think it is just very sad."

Four admit taking eggs

Four Englishmen were ordered yesterday to appear personally in front of a sheriff after they admitted taking golden eagle eggs from a nest in the west Highlands. Brian Foster, Christopher Pearson, Keith Simpson and Michael Smith-White, all 23 and from Hartlepool, admitted at Fort William Sheriff Court to disturbing the birds on March 29.

They took the eggs from an eyrie in Glen Beasdale, near Arisaig. Foster also pleaded guilty to having the two eggs in his possession and having climbing ropes to assist in the offences. All the offences were in contravention of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Dustman dies

A dustman was killed when he fell under the wheels of a moving dustcart as he tried to jump on it in Redbridge, Essex. Ronald James, 40, of Dagenham, was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

Donkey attack

A young holidaymaker suffered bites on his head, back, neck and shoulders after being attacked by a wild donkey at Berrymanor, north Devon. Christopher Rogers, 8, from Bognor Regis, West Sussex, had his arm broken and was kept in hospital for five days.

Knife robbery

A 51-year-old man who suffered an epileptic fit in a car park in Reading, Berkshire, was robbed of £20 at knife-point by two teenagers who he thought had come to help.

Body found

A decomposed body washed up on the beach at Dovercourt, Essex, has been identified as the remains of Mary Wetasingshe, a mother of two. She disappeared from her home in West Bergholt, near Colchester, in March.

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ANC demand for an end to violence puts brake on talks

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE African National Congress yesterday ruled out resuming talks with Pretoria until violence was curbed and all political prisoners freed.

The announcement, after a meeting of the ANC's national executive committee, means a continuation of South Africa's political stalemate, now in its third month. The ANC pulled out of multiparty talks on the country's constitutional future after the Boipatong township killings on June 17.

Yesterday the ANC said: "We simply cannot accept vague assurances that steps are to be taken to curb the violence. We have learnt the hard way that such assurances from the de Klerk regime mean very little."

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back together. Yesterday morning, a fleet of diplomatic Mercedes and BMWs, and a couple of glossy mini-buses containing the visitors brought Johannesburg's Alexandra township on to street corners to stare in bemusement. Mr Hurd, accompanied by Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Danish foreign minister, and José Barroso, the Portuguese secretary of state for co-operation, were trying to get a feel of life in the black townships for themselves.

The cavalcade rolled down the hill past what is locally known as "Beirut", a no man's land, where the little breeze-black houses have been shattered and burnt in violent clashes. Rubbish fills the streets of this area that lies just below the infamous hotel for migrant workers. This is where armed Zulus have come from, taking revenge for the injuries they say they suffered at the hands of ANC members.

People have been driven out by fear and intimidation. In some areas other families have taken over their vacant shacks. The motor procession



View finders: Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who heads an EC delegation to South Africa, hearing opinions at Alexandra township, near Johannesburg, on the resumption of talks between the ANC and Pretoria

wound its way past more secure housing. Here school children in gymshirts, and women in print dresses went about the daily business of the township. Makeshift stalls, built from packing cases, offered shoe repairs or cigarettes.

At the top of the hill the scene changed again to so-called informal housing: a

teeming squatter community where the main building material is flattened oil drums. Then down again and across the ditch towards where middle-class blacks live in bungalows that almost look suburban.

In the "Beirut" area, Mr Hurd said: "We are trying to help in practical ways. But what is needed is not just help

in improving facilities, but it is peace and the removal of violence." Standing outside the KwaMakala hostel, Mr Hurd was asked about his feelings on visiting the township. "Hope and sadness," he replied. "Sadness because conditions here are terrible and people should not have to live under these conditions."

"Hope because so many

people are seeking to make things better, are seeking to provide facilities and to rebuild this Beirut area."

Greeting the ministers, Patience Pasha of the Women's Forum For Peace said: "It's a terrible state out here. We want to believe that your coming here is hope for us."

Another Yugoslavia, page 10

Amnesty accuses Malawi of torture in crowded jails

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

JAILED Malawian dissident Chakufwa Chihana failed to appear in court yesterday to answer charges of attacking President Banda's autocratic rule, fuelling speculation that he is ill.

Mr Chihana, 52, who suffers from high blood pressure, has been in jail since April 6 after his campaign for a national conference for democratic reform. Since then he had enjoyed a weekend of freedom when the High Court ordered his release, but it was immediately revoked when he spoke out against the government of President Banda, the self-appointed president for life.

His absence from the trial hearing yesterday also led to speculation whether he would be fit to attend a High Court hearing today in Lilongwe, the Malawi capital, for a ruling on his application for bail.

Diplomatic sources in Lilongwe said yesterday that Mr Chihana's lawyers had appealed to prison authorities to admit him to hospital for his ailment to be treated. He was also said to be suffering from an infected throat.

Observers believe Mr Chihana is likely to receive hospital treatment. A vigorous media campaign by his exiled organisation, the Interim Committee for a Democratic Alliance, has ensured that he receives favourable treatment while in custody.

Other political detainees, however, have not been so fortunate. An Amnesty International report issued yesterday said that "hundreds" of people had been arrested since May, when Blantyre and Lilongwe erupted in violent demonstrations against the Malawi Congress party's rule since independence in 1964. Most of them are being held without due legal process.

"The government is facing unexpected opposition and it is reacting with repression," the 15-page report alleged. It said that torture, particularly the use of electric shocks, was commonplace, and that conditions in Malawi prisons were appalling. Amnesty International cited evidence of severe overcrowding: in one prison, 285 people were held in a cell of 24 square yards.

"They appear to be using overcrowding and degrading conditions as a deliberate weapon," Richard Carver of Amnesty, the London-based human rights organisation, said. In cases where working flush toilets existed in cells, prisoners were not permitted to use them, he said.

The report presents a markedly different view from recent widely publicised actions adopted by the Malawian government that include the release of dozens of long-term political detainees, granting the Red Cross permission to

visit prisons, and the passing by parliament of laws to soften the process of detention. Mr Carver said Amnesty welcomed these moves "as they really help the people affected", but added that "the government appears to be doing them for essentially cosmetic reasons".

At the end of the month, delegations from Malawi are scheduled to arrive in Washington to plead with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to recognise that the government has made "irreversible" progress towards the restoration of human rights, and that the \$73 million (£36.5 million) aid cut off in March because of the country's abuses should now be resumed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dozens die in Tajik clashes

Dushanbe: Dozens of people were killed in renewed clashes between supporters and opponents of President Naviyev of Tajikistan yesterday, Tajik radio reported, amid mounting calls for his resignation. The clashes broke out after protests in the Kurgan-Tyube region and coincided with lingering tension arising from the cabinet announcement that Mr Naviyev had been overthrown. (AFP)

Talks open

Moscow: Defence ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States have begun talks on collective security, news agencies reported. Georgia, which is not a member, attended as an observer. (AFP)

Italian suicide

Rome: The Milan corruption scandal prompted a third suicide when Sergio Moroni, 45, the Socialist MP, shot himself in the throat at his Brescia home. He was being investigated for receiving bribes.

Honecker stays

Berlin: A Berlin court has ruled that Erich Honecker, 80, the former East German leader who has liver cancer, must stay in prison pending his trial on manslaughter charges. (Reuters)

Foetus stabbed

Masterton: A New Zealand man pleaded guilty here to seven murders after going on the rampage, including stabbing a pregnant sister-in-law to kill the foetus. (Reuters)

Somalia's vision of hell becomes reality

FROM SAM KILEY IN BAIDOA

A MONTH ago Baidoa, in southwest Somalia, was described by David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister, as a "vision of hell". Following behind the "Dead Lorry", which collects bodies from the grounds of aid kitchens every morning, it is difficult not to conclude that his vision has become reality.

At seven every day the lorry is bump-started at the offices of the Somali Red Crescent and sets off on its rounds, delivering the bodies it collects to the city's four cemeteries. First it drives to a kitchen run by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

There, outside the gates, the grave-diggers, who are paid £1 a week to do what must be the most unpleasant job in the world, gather up the skeletal remains of seven adults. The corpses lie on top of a dump for the charred animal bones and boiled skins that the starving eat hopelessly to fend off death. Two babies, looking like piles of rags, are almost missed.

It was a grisly operation, and one that must be repeated three more times at other sites, the only variation being in the number of corpses.

Since the beginning of August and the arrival of seven C130 planes bringing 110 tons of food to the city, the death rate has got steadily worse. Aden Ahmed Isaaq, a Somali Red Crescent worker, said, adding: "At the start of the month the average number

of bodies collected from the kitchens and feeding centres was about 35. Now we are up to about 250 every morning. The number dying in the city at large must be in the region of 350."

That means that everyone in the town of about 75,000 would be dead in



214 days, were it not that they are constantly replaced by hundreds of walking skeletons who often have trekked more than 100 miles after hearing that there is food here. But they, too, are doomed. Aid agencies estimate that 4.5 million Somalis face death in their war-ravaged country. Already one in five children under five is thought to have died; 20 per cent of the population of seven million has fled the country, and perhaps hundreds of thousands have perished uncounted in the bust.

Leading article, page 11

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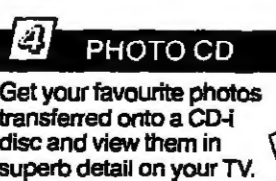
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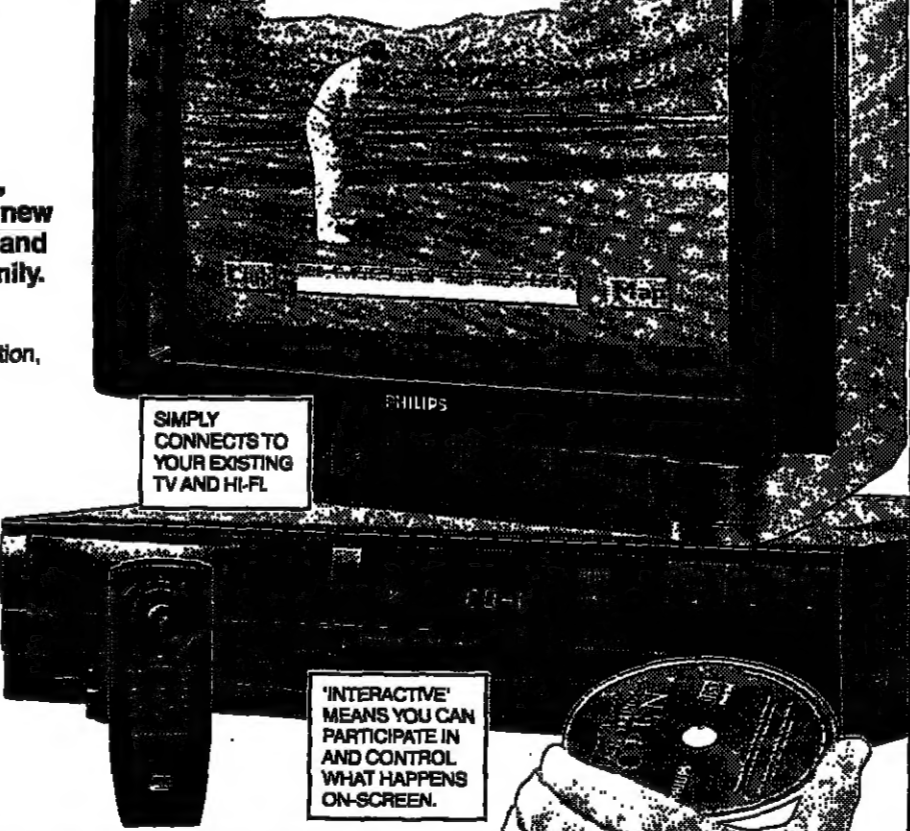
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Bonnur
French
vote Yes
Maastric

Whisky-loving
pour into Poland

Bonn urges French to vote Yes on Maastricht

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN AND PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

KLAUS Kinkel, the German foreign minister, yesterday almost begged French voters to give the European Community the chance it needed to develop by voting "yes" to the Maastricht treaty in their country's referendum.

Herr Kinkel's speech, together with last night's broadcast by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, on French television in support of the treaty, indicated the alarm among German politicians at the danger of a "no" result. "Germany and France were and are the motor of Europe-

an union," Herr Kinkel said. "The power of this motor can only work, however, if the speed of integration, which was set out in the Maastricht treaty, can be maintained. In view of the importance of this referendum I wish France, I wish Europe and I wish ourselves a positive result."

Indeed, President Mitterrand will be indebted to the Germans if he does win the referendum: eastern Germany's rampaging right-wingers and the Bundesbank's refusal yesterday to lower interest rates have reminded French voters of the fundamental reason for tying down a united Germany with the shackles of European union. Martin Bangemann, Germany's senior Brussels commissioner, this week complained that French politicians were warning voters that a "no" vote meant a united Germany would revert to its Nazi past.

Herr Kohl is so worried about a "no" result that he probably does not much care what arguments are used to convince the French to vote "yes". He believes that if Maastricht is rejected, it will be at least 20 years before the European Community can agree a similar treaty. He realises that a majority of German voters today would reject Maastricht if the constitution provided for a referendum.

The threat of losing the mark, through monetary union, has galvanised the nation in defence of its beloved currency. Surveying attitudes, the Allenbach Institute commented: "The mark in Germany... is one of the few national symbols with which Germans have no emotional difficulties. It is something of which they can allow themselves to be proud." A telephone poll published by *Bild* showed that 90 per cent of those asked would vote against giving up the mark.

Italy, with a faltering economy and the lira under severe pressure, is perhaps the European country with the most to lose if the French vote no. Rome is determined to do all it can to help French supporters of the treaty by pushing its ratification of the treaty through parliament before September 20, the date of the referendum, if at all possible. Emilio Colombo, Italy's foreign minister, yesterday urged members of the Senate foreign affairs committee to send a positive signal to French voters by ratifying the treaty swiftly.

Kohl's plea, page 1

Suspicion falls on Collor wife

While President Collor faces possible impeachment proceedings, Brazil's First Lady, Rosane, is under investigation for allegedly using \$12,500 in state funds to throw a party for a friend.

The federal police launched the investigation after a federal court in Brasilia ordered her and her friend and aide Eunice Guimaraes to replace the funds. Federal police have meanwhile asked a federal court to issue warrants for the arrest of two Collor aides, Paulo Cesar Farias and Claudio Vieira.

Sonia Gandhi, the intensely private widow of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, has written an intimate book about her assassinated husband. In *Rajiv*, she writes about her personal life for the first time since a magazine interview in 1985.

Ratu Sir Ganilan, 74, the ailing Fijian president, was being flown to Washington by US military aircraft yesterday for urgent medical treatment, a Fiji government official said.

Elena Yee, a Filipino-American who is described as a businesswoman and philanthropist, and a friend of Imelda Marcos, said that she had arranged for a chartered DC-10 to return the body of former President Marcos from Hawaii for burial in the Philippines this month.

Whisky-loving Scots pour into Poland

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

YOU can sense something is up when kilted bagpipers start to wail in the centre of Warsaw. Then, surrounded by baffled Polish shoppers, other kilted figures stage a Highland fling. When Johnnie Walker whisky sponsors an East European Highland Games, complete with the strange sport of caber-tossing, it is fair to say that the Scots have arrived.



GED

Apart from a few lingering soldiers and cross-border smugglers, the Russians have gone home. In their stead have come Americans (McDonald's, Levis, Pizza Hut), Germans and Italians. But it seems there is still space for the Scots in the post-communist re-ordering of the East.

The other day, Warsaw taxi drivers were heard discussing the name of the Loch Ness monster. Cabbies are tuned permanently to Radio Z, the local version

of LBC, which has been running a seemingly endless quiz about Scottish affairs. Yesterday listeners were asked to name a 17th-century Scottish poet.

The Scots have been around for a while in Eastern Europe. Polish historians have a fascination for the Stuarts, perhaps because of their distant relationship to the Polish throne. In the 19th century, Scottish engineers installed the civic infrastructure of Eastern Europe and Russia; William Lindley built the Warsaw sewers, Adam Clark built Budapest's Chain Bridge. Warsaw even had a Scottish mayor, Alexander Chalmers, at the start of the 18th century. To mark that occasion, members of the Hay clan this week presented the current mayor with a kilt.

The resurgence of Scottish interest in Eastern Europe has a sound commercial base. Poland has become Europe's leading counterfeiter of Johnnie Walker Red Label and United Distillers is launching a counter-attack. A standard 0.75 litre bottle of Johnnie Walker Red Label sells for £6 in Czechoslovakia, £7 in Russia, £7.50 in Bulgaria, £11 in Hungary—and £25 in Poland. In Britain it retails for between £8-£10.

The Polish fraud squad has seized about 6,000 Red Label bottles from Warsaw and other Polish shops, and four illegal bottling plants have been shut down. But the counterfeiting goes on.



A wife's tale: Helena Bonham-Carter, the British actress, filming *Marina's Story* with Frank Whaley in Moscow's Red Square. The film tells the story of the wife of Lee Harvey Oswald, who was shot dead while under arrest for killing President Kennedy.

Owen warns Belgrade to honour London accord

Michael Evans and Michael Binyon look at the prospects for the Geneva conference on Yugoslavia

THE Geneva conference on the former Yugoslavia began yesterday with a strong warning by its two chairmen that the world would not allow any departure from the agreements in London last week.

Lord Owen, the European peace negotiator, said principles were established "which we are determined will be maintained, and commitments were undertaken which we are determined will be upheld". As he spoke, details emerged of the possible make-up of the troops which will be sent to Bosnia as an expanded UN force to protect the relief convoys. A resolution increasing the role of the UN protection force in Bosnia will be discussed by the UN Security Council next Tuesday.

No final decision has been made about who will provide the extra 6,000 troops to support the 1,600 already in Bosnia. However, the list of possible contributors supplied to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, currently in Moscow, consists of Britain, The Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, France, Canada, Belgium, Spain, Russia and Portugal. America has also offered military assistance, although not combat troops.

The American contribution is expected to include logistical support and possibly air cover. Turkey yesterday offered to send 1,000 troops and Norway several hundred.

A decision on troop contributions could be made by the security council today. Britain has offered a battalion group of 1,800, expected to consist of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, supported by elements of the Royal Irish Regiment, 9/12 Lancers, 35 Engineers Regiment and a signals squadron. Even if the decision is taken today, it will take up to three weeks before the main body of the troops will set sail from Germany for Bosnia. However, a reconnaissance party could leave soon.

According to UN sources, the extra troops for the relief convoys will be based at five zones: Bihac, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Vitez and Mostar.

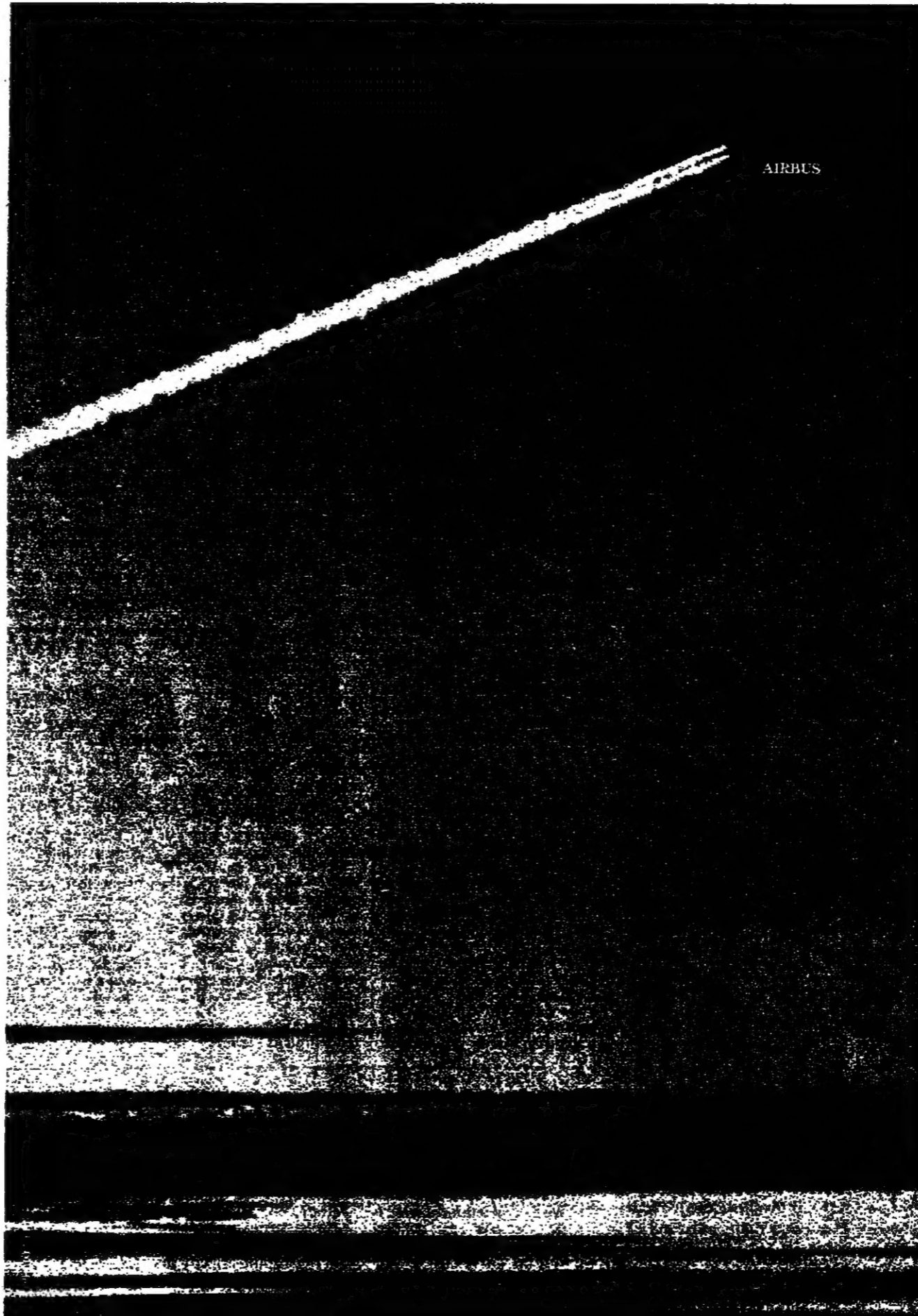
There will also be 11 food distribution centres. UN sources said the deployment of troops would be based on three principles: that protective support of the convoys would be an integral part of the UN presence in Bosnia; that all costs would be met by the troop contributors or other donors; and that the operation would be under standard UN rules of engagement.

In Geneva, Lord Owen gave a warning that the talks would be difficult and take time. He said there had been many hopes raised over the last year, many feelings of breakthroughs. But the peace negotiations would be a "very difficult, time-consuming and detailed process".

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations co-chairman, said the negotiators would meet in continuous session to find peace. "We are going to do our very best to deal with the issues both here in our meetings... but also in the frequent trips that we will be having when we go to the former Yugoslavia." The new conference would be a "much more effective organisation".

UN plane missing, page 1
Letters, page 11

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Cooperation between Aerospatiale and British aerospace industries has stood the test of time. More than 20 years ago their combined skills gave birth to Concorde and to the age of supersonic transport. Today, Aerospatiale and British Aerospace continue their close collaboration in the European Airbus programme - the 1800 aircraft which have been sold demonstrate the high degree of technological and commercial achievement they have reached together. Achievement which has also stimulated further cooperation in the development of joint defence programmes. As never before, the continued growth of the French and British aerospace industries now depends on maintaining this level of cooperation.



AEROSPATIALE

ACHIEVEMENT HAS A NAME

Peking threatens to quit arms talks over F16 jets for Taiwan

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

PEKING has threatened to withdraw from arms control talks with the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council unless President Bush reverses his decision to sell 150 F16 fighter jets to Taiwan.

Peking's angry response raises the danger of China becoming an unchecked arms supplier to the Middle East, an unwelcome prospect not only for Mr Bush but for all five security council leaders.

Mr Bush's decision reversed a decade-old ban on such sales to Taiwan and elicited the strongest reaction by Peking since Washington imposed sanctions after the Chinese army suppressed pro-democracy demonstrators in June

1989. "The Chinese government solemnly demands that the US government revoke its erroneous decision to sell F16 fighters to Taiwan. Pending a reversal of this decision by the US side, China would find it difficult to stay in the meeting of the five on arms control issues," Liu Huaqiu, the Chinese deputy foreign minister, told J. Stapleton Roy, the American ambassador to Peking. Mr Liu also said that the decision would lead to a "major retrogression" in bilateral relations and would have a "negative impact on Sino-US co-operation in the UN and other international organisations".

Mr Bush announced on Wednesday that he will ap-

prove the sale of 150 advanced F16 fighter jets to Taiwan, a deal worth about \$6 billion (£3 billion) over the next few years. In 1982, President Reagan signed a communiqué with Peking agreeing that the United States would wind down its arms sales to Taiwan, eventually halting them. Peking's Communist party regards itself as the rightful ruler of Taiwan.

Mr Bush claimed that the sale did not contravene the 1982 communiqué, and that it would "help maintain peace and stability" in Asia. Peking countered yesterday that "it will create tension in the now peaceful Taiwan straits". Mr Bush, who has defended Peking in the face of a congressional outcry on human rights since 1989, is believed to have made the decision under pressure to save jobs in an election year. He announced the sale to a cheering crowd of aerospace workers at General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas, where about 3,000 jobs will be saved by the contract.

In a dispatch from Washington, China's official news agency Xinhua pointed out that "public opinion here believes that the Bush administration's decision... is made mainly out of Bush's need to draw votes in the presidential election". Both Mr Bush and Peking now find themselves trapped.

Mr Bush cannot be seen to back down, but he has boasted of drawing Peking into arms control agreements during the past two years, and will be embarrassed to see that achievement vanish. Moreover, China's co-operation in the UN has been vital to Mr Bush in the past two years.

China agreed, for instance, not to veto the resolutions which led to the Gulf war. For its part, Peking has registered its fury. But Chinese officials may feel that they cannot go on an arms-selling spree, however much they would like to, for fear of Washington taking away the valuable trade privileges it enjoys with its most favoured nation status.

● Taipei: Taiwan's air force chief said yesterday that he was not satisfied with the F16 models approved for sale by President Bush. "Our procurement target is still F16 models C and D, which are more advanced, better equipped, and meet our demand," Air Force Commanding General Lin Wen-li told reporters at a rally celebrating Armed Forces Day. "From the air force point of view, we are not very satisfied with A and B models," he said, but added that some aircraft of the two models were more sophisticated than others. (AFP)

Bush denounced for crude electioneering

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER two days of dispensing federal largesse in key electoral states, President Bush yesterday faced a backlash, with governments abroad and critics at home accusing him of recklessly subverting American policy for crude political ends.

Mr Bush's announcement that he was tripling the amount of American wheat eligible for export subsidies provoked warnings from Europe that his "belligerent move" would not help break the deadlock in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks. Britain, the European Community president, told the administration it considered the move unhelpful.

Paul Keating, the Australian prime minister, said he deeply regretted that domestic political pressures had overridden America's commitment to the pursuit of "a less corrupted international trading environment for farm products".

At home Democrats and independent experts pointed out that Mr Bush had announced the rebuilding of the Homestead, Florida, air force base, flanked by Hurricane Andrew, even though scores of military bases throughout America were being shut down and Homestead was itself a candidate for closure.

Last Friday the administration reversed policy and decided to upgrade the M1 tank built in Michigan. The administration has also abruptly abandoned its opposition to the development of the V22 Osprey "tilt-rotor" aircraft. The White House insisted all the announcements, in-

cluding the decision to sell 150 F16 fighter jets to Taiwan, were "sound policy decisions to help with the needs of the American people". Invariably, however, their effect is to safeguard threatened jobs or to create new ones in Florida, Texas and the agricultural and industrial Midwest, where Mr Bush must defeat Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, this November.

Mr Clinton himself has been hit by further allegations that he dodged the Vietnam draft. The Los Angeles Times reported that Raymond Clinton, his late uncle, who was a well-connected Arkansas car dealer, led a successful lobbying effort to prevent his nephew being drafted during the ten-month period in 1968 after his graduation, when he was most vulnerable. That delay enabled the younger Clinton to take up a Rhodes scholarship at Oxford.

The Los Angeles Times reported that "the future governor of Arkansas was the only man of his prime draft age classified 1A by [his draft] board in 1968 whose pre-induction physical examination was put off for 10.5 months - more than twice as long as anyone else".

Mr Clinton has always denied being helped to avoid the draft. Accused anew by reporters, he insisted that he knew of no manoeuvring by his uncle, but Dan Quayle, the vice-president, who faced draft-dodging allegations of his own in 1988, said Mr Clinton had a "credibility problem".



Quake misery: a woman weeps amid the wreckage of a beachside hotel in Casares, Nicaragua, where tidal waves from an offshore earthquake left at least 95 dead and thousands homeless along a 200-mile stretch of coastline. The tidal wave struck the region on Tuesday and survivors complained of food and first aid shortages despite relief efforts by the

government. Army troops yesterday had reached most affected communities, although some were still cut off from rescue efforts. A Nicaraguan army spokesman said most of the dead were children between six months and 15 years old, whose bodies were swept to sea by 50ft waves. Nicaraguan seismologists said at least 100 aftershocks hit the

region. President Chamorro toured the area and issued an urgent appeal for international aid. Offers of relief came from the United States, El Salvador, Chile, Colombia and elsewhere. But despite the outpouring of help from volunteers, government and army rescue teams, some survivors were having difficulties getting food, shelter and medical attention.

Alicia Padilla, a resident of Casares, where tidal waves washed 300 yards inland killing at least five people, said that seven shelters had been set up but that there was no food, blankets or medicines to distribute among the scores of homeless. Many children were coming down with respiratory diseases and diarrhoea. Señora Padilla said. (AFP)

Betsey primed for war on Bush

EXACTLY two months before the American presidential election, Betsey Wright is primed for war. She is Bill Clinton's Patriot missile battery, her task to intercept and destroy Republican Scuds. In a campaign in which she asserts, the Bush camp's sole strategy is to pulverise its opponent, her performance will be critical in determining whether Mr Clinton reaches the Oval Office.

Miss Wright knows Mr Clinton, the man and politician, better than anyone except his wife. They have been friends since George McGovern's 1972 campaign. For seven years she was the Arkansas governor's chief of staff. She has assembled and combed 1,200 boxes of documents pertaining to his past for areas of vulnerability (she admits there are some). She has prepared lines of rebuttal for every conceivable line of attack. As defender of the record, she plans to knock down distortions with facts, her means of delivery a barrage of faxes to the nation's newsmen.

The Democrats know that Mr Clinton, of all men, enjoys no Teflon coating. They know he will be assailed as the "failed governor of a small state" and a man who cannot be trusted. Could the Republicans be sitting on another explosive revelation about his private life? "Not a true one," Miss Wright said in an interview. "I am not at all confident there are not lies in the making out there, but my job is to dispel and discredit them as rapidly as possible."

A forceful Texan of 48 with handsome features and waves of steel-gray hair, Miss Wright has no illusions about the weeks ahead. Mr Bush had failed to set a moral tone. The Republican party "has been taken over by right-wing fanatics driven more by hate than hope." Already its campaign was meaner even than 1988. "I have gotten to where I expect anything," she said, and she and her dozen aides have the benefit of ample spring training.

Last September, loathing the strain of campaigns, she accepted a Harvard fellowship. By March, Mr Clinton

Bill Clinton called up a trusted old friend, a tough Texan woman, to take charge of his Patriot missile battery and shoot down Republican rumour Scuds. This way his path to the Oval Office can be swept clean

Martin Fletcher writes from Little Rock, Arkansas



Wright: her performance will be critical

faced multiple charges of infidelity, draft-dodging and financial skulduggery in Arkansas and was being savaged like "a piece of meat".

Miss Wright alone knew his record well enough to refute the allegations. He begged her to return and when she did, she found Little Rock overrun by reporters digging for dirt. Numerous contacts told her who they were and what they were after. She aggressively telephoned them at their hotels, told them she knew what they were up to, and sought to balance or kill their stories. In most cases, she said, it worked.

To counter endless spurious claims of adultery by Mr

Clinton she employed a leading private investigator, San Francisco's Jack Palladino, who by May alone had received \$28,000 (£14,000) from the campaign.

At the Democrats' July convention, Miss Wright learnt that Sally Perdue, a former Miss Arkansas, was about to profess a past affair with Mr Clinton. She and Mr Palladino found four friends and relatives to dispute Ms Perdue's veracity and managed to kill the story.

In another instance, news organisations were sent an anonymous fax claiming one of Mr Clinton's former law students had committed sui-

cide in 1978 after he made her pregnant. Mr Palladino discovered two members of the presidential victory committee, an unofficial Republican organisation, tormenting the girl's relatives in an attempt to corroborate the story. The family denied it on national television and condemned their harassers.

"Bimbo eruptions" Miss Wright calls such episodes. She has counted at least 26, but only Gennifer Flowers has made the mainstream press. She admits Mr Clinton has on occasion been naively "careless about appearances", but blames "gold-diggers", tabloids who offer them six-figure sums to lie, and the Republicans who, she insists, are generating many of the stories.

When the Bush campaign recently put up Carroll Campbell, South Carolina's Republican governor, to criticise Mr Clinton's record, Miss Wright distributed a past letter from him lauding that record before he started speaking. During last month's Republican convention she ran a "lie meter" from a restaurant near Houston's Astrodome that rapidly reached three figures. Within 15 minutes of Mr Bush's acceptance speech she was handing out the governor's response.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jews asked to renounce land dream

Jerusalem: Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Labour prime minister, has made a strong appeal for occupied land to be given up, urging Israelis to abandon any hopes of controlling all biblical Israel.

Mr Rabin said Israel must seek compromises in the Middle East peace talks. He told a military awards ceremony that Israelis should "cast off delusions of a religion of a Greater Land of Israel". Yitzhak Shamir, his predecessor, had viewed the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.75 million Palestinians, as Israel's biblical birthright.

"The strength of a nation is not measured by land, the lands under its control (but) rather by its faith, its ability to foster its social, economic and defence systems," Mr Rabin said. He expected agreement within a year on a plan for Palestinian self-rule.

Mr Rabin, who took office after June's elections, had campaigned on a pledge to concentrate on social issues, and has curbed Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. (Reuters)

Toll mounts

Kabul: Flash floods in the Afghan Hindu Kush mountains north of Kabul have killed more than 450 people and at least 500 are missing, government officials and British aid workers said. (Reuters)

Truce agreed

Moscow: Russia, Georgia and its separatist Abkhazian minority have agreed that a ceasefire in the bitter conflict on the Black Sea coast, which has claimed hundreds of lives, should start tomorrow.

Claim denied

Moscow: Russia has rejected US claims that it has failed to close biological weapons programme of the former Soviet Union. An official said President Yeltsin had banned germ warfare. (AFP)

Hurricane victims spurn tent city

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

TWO days after troops began erecting a tent city in south Florida to house victims of Hurricane Andrew, disaster relief officials are finding few takers for Desert Storm living conditions, never mind the hot showers, steaming mugs of coffee and bacon and eggs.

Many of the 180,000 people whose homes were demolished or badly damaged by 160mph winds, prefer to stay in condemned buildings than become refugees. By yesterday morning only 145 people had moved to the Harris Field tent city in Homestead.

"They think of tent cities as concentration camps," said

Tony Vasquez of Florida City. He said people were scared of losing their surviving possessions to looters, though nearly 20,000 soldiers are now in the disaster zone helping provide security.

Building inspectors have implored thousands to abandon their homes, warning them that dangling electric wires, leaking roofs and sagging ceilings could kill them.

"Some of those people are taking their lives in their hands," said David Figueroa, a local inspector heading five teams reviewing damaged homes. He has left a trail of placards which read "Unfit for human habitation" or "Un-

safe building. Shall not be lived in." Inspector Clay Parker led another team which found a 91-year-old woman who refused to leave her unsafe home. "The ceiling was ready to come down and there were snakes and scorpions all over the house," he said. "But she said the Lord had got her through the storm and he would get her through the calm, too," he added.

● Washington: The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, has donated \$10 million to the American Red Cross to help fund relief for Hurricane Andrew victims, the Kuwaiti embassy said here. (Reuters)

Mud-slinging greets Ferraro's return to politics

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

ALFONSE D'Amato, New York's Republican senator, is no stranger to political street-fighting. Earlier this year he distributed a campaign letter which began: "I hope you're sitting down as you read this. GERALDINE FERRARO is back."

That was a neatly calculated warning for Geraldine Ferraro's decision to run in the New York Democratic primary to pick a candidate to run against Senator D'Amato has not only re-launched the career of one of the most prominent female politicians in America, it has also revived the accusations of Mafia links, financial impropriety and scandal that have dogged the former congresswoman since the disastrous campaign as Walter Mondale's running mate in

1984. From the start Mrs Ferraro, 56, has been the clear favourite, but with less than two weeks to go until the Democratic primary the campaign has taken on a mud-slinging violence that makes Mrs Ferraro's 1984 experience look clean by comparison.

Two of her three opponents for the Democratic nomination, Elizabeth Holtzman, New York's financial controller, and Robert Abrams, the state's attorney-general, have seized on her family's alleged links with the Mafia in an effort to undermine her. She has responded with characteristic vim, accusing her attackers of ethnic bias against Italian-Americans and painting herself in television advertisements as an Italian Anita

Hill, a woman beset by sexist accusers.

The allegations against Mrs Ferraro and her husband, John Zaccaro, a property developer, first emerged in 1984, after it was revealed that they had leased a warehouse to Star Distributors, child pornography distributors with known links to organised crime. At the time, she denied knowing about the company and promised to evict them. But according to an article in *The Village Voice*, the company stayed put until 1987 and the Zaccaros allegedly netted an extra \$300,000 in rent.

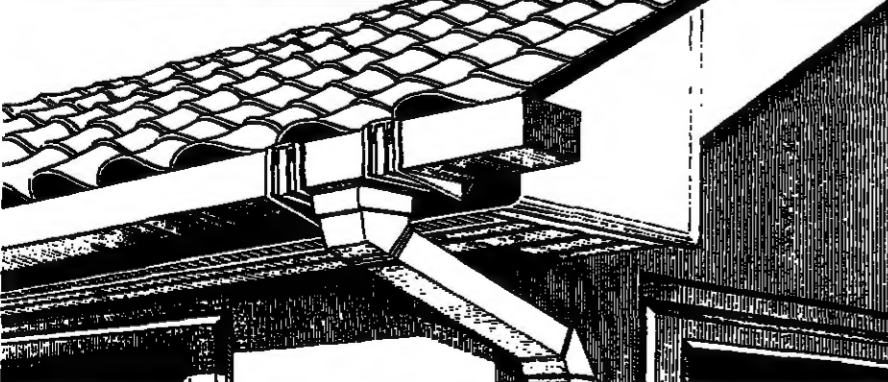
Whether the accusations will seriously damage Mrs Ferraro's renewed political ambitions depends ultimately on the Democratic voters of New York.



Ferraro: says she is a woman beset by sexist accusers

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High-living elite helps Iraq to survive sanctions as suspicions revive over arms production

Saddam 'mafia' tightens grip on supply network

TWO years after the imposition of United Nations sanctions, a complex network of companies, middlemen and smugglers is keeping Iraq supplied with sufficient goods to enable President Saddam Hussein to retain a grip on power. They operate in countries as diverse as Cyprus, Switzerland, Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Bulgaria and Syria.

His tradition of buying loyalty, which goes back to the 1980-1988 war with Iran, when families of the fallen were presented with new cars, is seen by European intelligence sources as likely to frustrate Washington's hope of toppling Saddam in the near future.

Procurement is in the hands of Saddam's relatives, including his flamboyant eldest son Uday. They are known as the "new mafia". By exploiting shortages, they have acquired vast wealth and, by siphoning off luxuries and the pick of essentials to a million party and military loyalists, have greatly reduced the chances of a successful coup.

Uday, 26, a self-confessed murderer (of his father's food taster, whom he accused of pimping on behalf of Saddam's mistress) carries a golden gun, drives a black Porsche and recently acquired the monopoly over chicken, which retails at the price of caviar in the West. He once shot on the spot an army officer who objected to his flirting with his wife.

Western diplomats in Jordan and Iraqi exiles maintain that Saddam's recent execution of 42 leading merchants accused of profiteering was designed in part to strengthen the family's grip over supply routes. It has backfired, creating a wave of fear that is now threatening trade in vital foodstuffs.

"They were a respectable, decent class who were not profiteering", said Yusuf Nader, a Palestinian trader who specialises in providing Iraq with staple products. "I knew some of them as personal friends, and it hurt deeply when they were murdered. Saddam also took everything away from their families, who are now destitute. Some of the merchants were tied to poles

The ability of Saddam and his sons to reward political allies and frustrate hopes of their fall is examined by Michael Theodoulou and Christopher Walker

in public with boards saying "We are bloodsuckers". They were then brought to the interior ministry (run by Saddam's half-brother) and executed," Mr Nader said.

The executions were also seen as a crude attempt by Saddam to deflect public discontent at the high living of his elite, flaunted under the noses of the people struggling for survival in a war-torn economy where food prices have increased by up to 50 times since the 1991 ceasefire. Other moves have included a £12,000 fine and jail for a nightclub patron who thrust a blank cheque at the feet of a buxom belly dancer, and the burning of singing in Baghdad's fantastically priced restaurants. In one favoured by the Talriti (the ruling clan named after Saddam's home town), the new year's menu included lobster thermidor and suckling pig for the equivalent of £225 a head.

Although much of the trade is sanctions-busting, with Turkey recently replacing Jordan as the favoured overland route, the UN sanctions committee this summer permitted a British-registered company, Worldwide Corporation Limited with headquarters in Stratford-upon-Avon, to export legally 480 million cigarettes to Iraq. Because so many cigarettes, legally and illegally shipped, had already found their way to Baghdad, the company, part of the Worldwide Group based in the Cypriot port of Larnaca, declined to take up the deal, which it no longer considered profitable.

Had it gone ahead, it would have been paid in oil futures, the right to Iraqi crude once its sale abroad is permitted again. "We applied and re-applied for the licence and eventually the UN agreed to our application, which went initially through the Department of Trade and Industry," said Charles Hadkinson, the chief executive of the group.

"We argued that in a Third World country, cigarettes are a necessity. Without them, people become unstable and can resort to violence."

Diplomats have expressed surprise that cigarettes should be considered legal trade. "If sanctions are ever going to work, that is the sort of thing we should be depriving them of", one claimed.

Concerted efforts by a top New York corporate detective agency and a number of intelligence services have yet to track down the whereabouts or exact total of Saddam's hidden wealth, put anywhere

between \$10 billion and \$26 billion (up to £13 billion), much of it obtained by skimming a percentage off Iraq's oil revenues since 1972. But it is agreed that Saddam's half-brother, Barzan Talriti, oversees the shadowy financing operation from his fortress-like Swiss villa overlooking Lake Geneva, where he also heads Iraq's permanent mission to the UN and its delegation to the Human Rights Commission.

As deputy and later head of the notorious Mukhabarat, Iraq's intelligence service, he developed the "sheep dip", a five-storey establishment in Baghdad's Salman Pak area, where witnesses have described how prisoners and corpses were thrown into acid baths in the basement. In 1978, he established the medical poisons unit in Baghdad University's medical college and a year later, led the crackdown against Shia opponents of the regime.

Over 100 petitions have been sent to the Swiss government and the UN urging his removal, but to no avail. "We even saw the Swiss ambassador in London to demand the expulsion of this man who has been responsible for at least 23,000 deaths," said Saad Jabr, son of a former Iraqi prime minister who now heads the London-based Free Iraqi Council. "We told him that harbouring a criminal like this was doing no good for Switzerland's reputation for neutrality. But it did not make one iota of difference. He asked us for 'proof'. What proof does he want that Iraq is being run by a bunch of gangsters?"

Another increasingly important cog in the corrupt family machine is Uday's younger brother, Kusan, aged only 25 but already, despite his deceptively shy manner, he is the head of the Mukhabarat and, more importantly, of the Amn al-Khass, the 8,000-strong unit responsible for the president's security.

Both sons are known as the "cubs" and regarded as potential successors to Saddam, 55. Kusan, whose agents frequently administer the "Iraqi manicure", the removal of all fingernails from unco-oper-

ative detainees, is regarded as closer to his father. He is also in charge of military procurement. "Saddam relies on and trusts Kusan more", one Iraqi opposition leader said. "Uday runs the newspaper Babel and is more of a playboy. Both are believed to have been allowed to witness torture sessions when they were young to prepare them."

Because Iraq still refuses to sell its permitted quota of oil



Staying power: Uday, the flamboyant son of Saddam, is responsible for buying the loyalties of party and military officials to strengthen the family's hold on Iraq

under what it alleges are the "colonial" terms dictated by the UN, it now faces a severe currency shortage. Last month a shipment of 900,000 tonnes of Australian wheat was almost wholly paid for in gold. Other methods of raising cash have included round-the-clock printing of dinars, which has pushed inflation to dizzy heights, the use of bribes paid by international companies involved in the rebuilding

which followed the Iran-Iraq war and the sale — for dollars — of majority stakes in state enterprises. The remarkable rate of reconstruction after the allied bombing has been boosted by tax exemptions for those involved, while Baath party activists have received many perks. "The aim is to create a class whose lifestyle would collapse if Saddam fell from power", one exile remarked.

Baghdad 'still makes nuclear weapons'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THIS week's claim by the leader of a United Nations weapons inspection team that Iraq's nuclear bomb programme has been eliminated was criticised yesterday as naive by his predecessor, David Kay, who led three missions to Iraq, insisted there was evidence that Iraq still had a hidden underground plutonium reactor.

Mr Kay, an American who now works for the Uranium Institute in London, said he was appalled by the statement by Maurizio Zifferero, the new UN team leader, that the programme was "at zero". Signor Zifferero, the Italian deputy director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, repeated his claim yesterday, saying: "All the [nuclear] activities are destroyed. There is no possibility of a substantial organised programme going on in Iraq now."

But Mr Kay, said: "It's naive and imprudent and not really based on the evidence." He said the Iraqis had refused to hand over the complete list of foreign companies and scientists who had been involved in the nuclear programme. "If we had that list, we could find out what hasn't been uncovered. I am convinced there is an underground plutonium reactor under construction somewhere in Iraq," he said.

He added that there was also evidence that the Iraqis were clandestinely reprocessing nuclear material. "To say it is 'zero' is a leap of faith that I don't share." Mr Kay, who led one team held for five days in a Baghdad car park nearly 12 months ago, said that the Iraqis had never told the truth and had always tried to deceive and obstruct the UN teams.

"You can only speak with authority about what you have seen, not what the Iraqis tell you," he said, adding that he hoped that the UN Security Council would maintain the nuclear checks and would not accept Signor Zifferero's statement.

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Chronicles of mayhem

Trollope's novels are surprisingly full of violence, says Victoria Glendinning

Anthony Trollope is inexhaustible as a man and a novelist. One surprising aspect of his fiction is the physical violence involved. It is a supremely unexpected trait in the chronicles of Barsetshire, and I was provoked into thinking more about it when Lord Quinton, touched on the topic in his speech to the Trollope Society of New York in April.

Is there any fictional mother outside Trollope who has toyed with the idea of killing her young adult child? But Lady Anna's mother is tempted to do her in, simply in order to prevent her making an "unsuitable" match. This well-bred mother keeps a pistol in her writing desk.

The ugly scar on George Vavasor's face, in another novel, is incurred when repelling a burglar, whom he kills. George Vavasor is a real sadist, breaking his adoring sister Kate's arm and leaving her alone and in agony. In Trollope's first book, *Thady Madermor* bumps off his sister's lover with two skull-shattering blows on the head. Family honour is more politely defended by duelling, but duels had been made illegal in England; when Phineas Finn and Lord Chiltern fight a duel, they have to go abroad to do it.

At home, rough justice prevails. What is particularly satisfying about these episodes is that Trollope gives their exact locations, so that walking through London one can imagine them happening. Tom Tringle, drunk and rained-out, punches Colonel Stubbs one night outside the Haymarket Theatre in a fit of jealousy over a girl. Johnny Eames assaults Adolphus Crosbie for abandoning Lily — seizing him by the throat and punching him in the eye — at Paddington Station, leaving him "prostrate among the newspapers" in the W.H. Smith bookstall. A dignified cleric, Dean Lovelace, flies at the Marquis of Brotherton's throat in a hotel in Albemarle Street and knocks him into the fender. Humble John Crumb goes for his Ruby's aristocratic seducer in a gas-lit passage near the Angel, Islington, catching him round the neck with his left arm and hitting him in the face with his right, "getting him into chancery as we used to say when we fought at school", as Trollope comments.

Bullied at Harrow to the point of despair, Trollope once had a great fight there which went on for hours. He was badly hurt but emerged victorious. He was capable of the kind of sensitivity that is called feminine. But he could also be something of a bully himself. As he wrote with feeling in his life of Palmerston, "A man who will not be bullied will sometimes bully".

Murderous women are not presented by Trollope as harpies or monsters but as ordinary people provoked to excessive acts. Winifred Hurtle, an intelligent and highly desirable woman, once "shot a man through the head somewhere in Oregon". Attractive Mrs O'Hara pushes her daughter's betrayer to a

horrible death on the rocks over the Cliffs of Moher. But mostly women's violence is self-directed. Nina Balatta and Linda Tressel both want to put an end to their lives in the river, in Prague and Nuremberg respectively. Marie Clavert, on the night of her arranged marriage to an elderly one-legged man, hurls herself to her death down a Pyrenean mountain diast.

Male suicides in Trollope are connected with business failures, social disgrace, and alcohol. Sir Henry Harcourt, financially ruined and abandoned by his wife, shoots himself in the chilly splendour of his Eaton Square house. Dobbs Broughton, the *nouveau riche* financial fiend, shoots himself while drunk. The great and greedy wicked Melmotte takes prussic acid with his brandy night-cap.

Sometimes I wonder whether Mrs Proudie, discovered dead — open-eyed, half-standing, with one arm round the bed-post — did not kill herself, by mistake on purpose, with too much of the medicinal draught we are told she took.

He found the truth of sensationally murderous impulses in his fictional characters

There's a lot of shrewd shrewdery, too, in Trollope's fiction: a graphic attempted rape in Bermuda; the violence of a weak and guilty man, Cousin Henry, hurling himself at the throat of the attorney, and Henry Annesley blinding Mountjoy Scarbon.

ough against the railings in Charles Street at 2 am, leaving him on the pavement unconscious. The deranged Mr Kennedy pulls a gun on Phineas Finn in a seedy hotel room in Judd Street. Tipsey young Everett Wharton is mugged walking in St James's Park.

Many people assume that the danger of walking in London at night is a modern phenomenon. But London parks, in Trollope's day, suffered the bad reputation that New York's Central Park has today. Gentlemen carried "life-preservers": sticks weighted with lead, such as that with which the Vicar of Bulhampton wallops intruders in his vicarage garden. A common form of mugging was garroting, which is throttling from behind, using a cord or iron bar across the victim's throat. This is what happens to the fictional Mr Kennedy one night on the corner of Brook Street and Park Street. Mr Bonteen is murdered on the way home from his club, in an alley off Berkeley Street. Trollope readers will recognise which novels and stories these instances come from, and may think of more.

Trollope took issue with distinctions between "sensational" and "realistic" novels. A good novel, he wrote, should be both. And if there be "truth of description, truth of character, human truth as to men and women... I do not know that a novel can be too sensational". Trollope, categorised as the chronicler of the everyday, found the truth of sensationally murderous impulses in their commonality.

Victoria Glendinning's biography of Trollope is published this week by Hutchinson at £20.

Ministers have connived in a confidence trick over GCSE standards, argues Stuart Maclure

Magic in the marks

The latest examination controversy is about a report from Her Majesty's Inspectors which is expected to say that standards have slipped. True to form, we have the conclusions before the evidence. Sensitive to critics on his right, John Patten promises action before anyone has had a chance to put what is happening in perspective.

What is clear, however, is that recent categorical statements from the examination boards that standards have been maintained are rhetoric rather than fact. What they mean is "we have done our best to make sure there is no obvious slippage". But there is no absolute standard in an examination such as GCSE. The eventual "standards" built into the grading system are based on knowledge and experience, but still, when the chips are down, on something less than mathematical objectivity. There are five examining bodies for England and Wales: it is widely believed that the standards in different subjects differ from board to board.

The papers are marked by thousands of examiners, who do a good

job for a pittance. They are given marking schemes which provide guidance on how the marks are to be awarded, but each group of examiners and chief examiners has to interpret these. Some are harder task-masters than others. There are reconciliation procedures to try to iron out differences before the final judgments are made about the grade barriers (the number of marks required to get a grade A, B, C, D or E).

Grades A to C are meant to maintain the standards set by the General Certificate of Education which held sway till 1987. But the GCSE was a new exam with new syllabuses, intended to provide new incentives for teaching and learning. A feature of it is the inclusion of some course work within the corpus of material that counts towards the final examination marks. Traditionalists — most of whom happened to have been good at traditional exams — distrust contin-

uous assessment, which is much harder to monitor and more open to polite forms of cheating by well-intentioned parents. While these people concentrated their attention on the judicial function of the examination as a way of assessing merit, the educators tended to be more interested in it as a device for motivating pupils to work and to learn: GCSE was intended to embrace a much wider range of students than the GCE.

The general view — supported by the inspectors — is that the new exam has done this, that the curricular changes and the introduction of continuous assessment have increased the work-rate among 14 and 15 year olds, and this has brought more of them on. Examinations are "easier" for well-motivated pupils than for pupils who find the work a burden. In this sense, therefore the new exam must be easier.

There is another sense in which it

may have become easier. The new exam was brought in in a mad rush. Teachers had to adapt quickly to a regime which required them to be examiners as well as teachers. There may well have been some slippage in the first few years as the examiners learnt over backwards not to be unfair to pupils who were guinea-pigs. And this may have had some more lasting effect.

Ministers were always conniving in a confidence trick when they promised that the new examination would maintain exactly the same standards as the old. After all, the notion of an inflexible examination standard is itself a confidence trick. This is what public exams are about: confidence. That is the magic they dispense.

The government has already begun to reduce the course work content in response to criticism from pressure groups. Secretly, most of us measure the standard of an exam by its exclusivity. GCE,

like the old School Certificate before it, was an exam aimed at the cleverest 25 per cent. Part of its prestige was due to the fact that 75 per cent of the population could not meet its demands. If GCSE were simply to cream off the top 25 per cent of examinees, everyone would know where they stood, but then an increase in the number of entrants might simply erode standards.

What we shall now have is a bout of breast-beating which will leave the intrinsically difficult questions unanswered. What remains is the excellent news that more pupils are making their way through the system and achieving what is deemed necessary to go further. We need a system which "qualifies" a much larger proportion of pupils, not one which disqualifies 75 per cent.

And whatever else is dragged into this debate, let's keep spelling out of it: spelling is important, but what has been happening at GCSE is about other things. Spelling needs to be taken in hand well before the last two years of the compulsory school period.

The author was editor of the Times Educational Supplement 1969-89.

The danger of majority rule

R.W. Johnson, in Natal, considers the political forces that could lead to the break up of South Africa

South Africa's stalled political debate hinges on two great issues, a power-sharing solution versus simple majority rule, and federalism versus a centralised, unitary state. In the period since the breakdown of the constitutional negotiations, attention has focused more and more strongly on the second of these issues. Partly this is because federalism constitutes a key form of power-sharing in itself, and partly because it provides a platform around which President de Klerk can hope to build a coalition including many of the minor parties, black "homeland" leaders and perhaps right-wing whites.

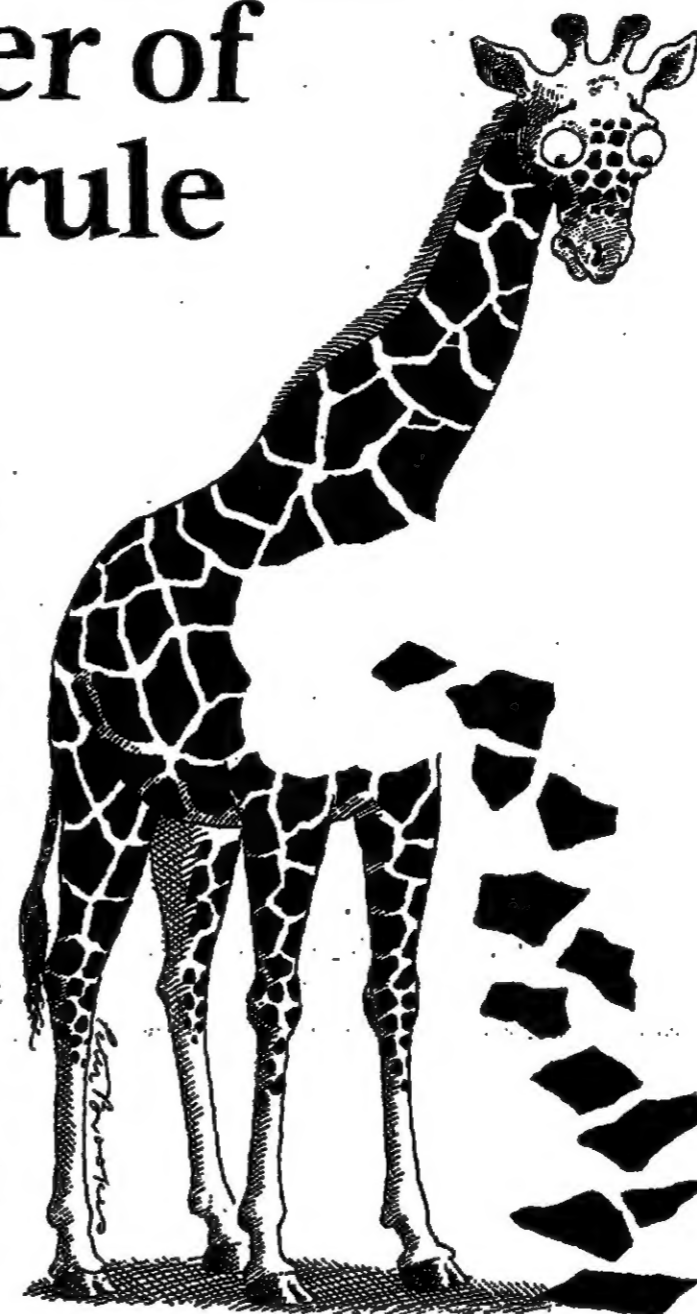
But the federalist debate has also drifted to the fore for two other reasons. One is that Lesotho, which is entirely surrounded by South Africa and whose independence has been a sorry story of political failure, may wish to rejoin South Africa once white supremacy has ended. Clearly, such an arrangement would require a considerable measure of self-government for Lesotho, which would imply a federal dispensation overall. But the other reason stems from a quite opposite consideration: that without federalism, South Africa might simply split apart like a huge African Yugoslavia.

Thus far, discussion has centred mainly on the possible creation of a Boerstaat, the Afrikaner homeland favoured by the far right. Apart from the fact that a pure white racist state of this sort could be achieved only by horrendous and large-scale "ethnic cleansing" and would probably be impossible to gain international recognition, the big problem about Boerstaat is where exactly it would

be. The Northern Transvaal was the only area of the country to vote No in de Klerk's referendum, and is thus the heartland of Boerstaat feeling, but even there blacks are in a large majority. Furthermore, the area is landlocked, drought-stricken and on the way to becoming a dust bowl. Not even the white right dares to suggest that ethnically-minded Afrikaners from around the country should uproot themselves to settle there.

But the Boerstaat debate has obscured another factor that by far the most likely candidate for secession is Natal. Chief Buthelezi has no reservations about declaring that a state of war effectively exists between the African National Congress and his Inkatha movement already, and given the weekly toll of scores of deaths in the intercommunal fighting between the two organisations, this hardly seems an exaggeration. The bottom line for Chief Buthelezi is the preservation, at minimum, of sufficient local autonomy for Inkatha and the traditional Zulu monarchy to survive. Should a radical ANC government come to power within a centralised unitary system, these institutions may feel so threatened, that secession — with all its dangers — seems the safest way out.

If, moreover, things came to such a desperate pass, Inkatha would find ready allies in the right-wing whites of Northern Natal and among the white and Indian commercial classes of Durban, who prefer its free-enterprise stance to the socialist maxims of the ANC. Natal separatism has, in any case, never really died among those who proudly proclaim it as "the last outpost of the British Empire". Inkatha has already begun to point



out how badly Natal does in government subsidy, and there is no shortage of voices pointing out that Natal's sizeable industry, together with its coal, sugar, timber, plentiful water and control of the continent's two biggest ports, Durban and Richards Bay, would be useful bargaining chips.

The trouble is that Durban is Johannesburg's port, and any government in Pretoria, whatever its

complexion, would be bound to resist any unilateral declaration of independence by Natal — with armed force if necessary. At which point one must note that Chief Buthelezi's KwaZulu police is larger than the police forces of Lesotho and Botswana combined, and already constitutes a significant paramilitary force. Moreover, an ANC government wishing to resist such an independence movement would

find itself entirely in the hands of the white army officers whom it loathes and distrusts.

Were such a desperate enterprise to get under way, others would have cause and opportunity to examine their own separatist options. As 80 per cent of the electorate of the Western Cape is white or coloured, it is certain that the region will produce a large — and predominantly Afrikaans-speaking — anti-ANC majority. Already there is a distinct trickle of white migration to the Cape, which, if civil order were to collapse, would quickly become a torrent. One could even imagine a reversal of the Great Trek, with the hard-bitten, right-wingers of the Northern Transvaal retracing the steps their forefathers took in 1838. For, of course, if all else fails, the Western Cape is the natural Boerstaat, even though a majority of the Afrikaners there have brown rather than white skins.

Like Natal, the Cape has a long and fond memory of a previous existence as a separate colony, which it could quite easily fall back on. But the general confusion and turmoil created by secession would probably also encourage at least some of the Tswanas of the Bophuthatswana homeland to seek a merger with neighbouring Botswana, and elements within the Swazi "homeland" of KaNgwane might make a similar move towards Swaziland. As Yugoslavia has shown, once the dominoes begin to fall it is a matter of some qui peut.

South Africa has been a single country only since 1910 — which in historical terms means that the glue is hardly dry. But there is a strong sense of national commonality among all groups, and there is certainly nothing inevitable about this secessionist scenario, particularly if a federalist solution can be achieved.

The irony that needs to be understood, however, is that nothing would do more than to advance the cause of secession than the arrival in power of a radical, centralising elite, intent, as is the ANC, on large-scale social engineering in a unitary state. For this might well appear so threatening to some groups that they would feel they had been presented with a do-or-die choice — in which case a triumphant African nationalism might find, in its very hour of victory, that the state was coming apart in its hands.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

Yesterday morning, a bell-wether suddenly appeared in my street. It had, however, a petal standing on it. It is thus far too early to say what may or may not be portended. It is far too early to say anything, in fact, as things are turning out, it is impossible to say anything.

The item, which has taken up residence a few doors from mine, is an estate agent's signboard. Nothing odd about that, you say, we live in desperate times, things fall apart, the mortgage cannot hold, half the country is for sale, glance down any street and you will be dazzled by the breeze-blown escutcheons of a hundred different agents. It is like the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

But this is not a For Sale sign. This — as you siting down? — is a Sold sign. Pedestrians pause to clutch the wall and breathe upon their disbelieving spectacles, passing traffic brakes and slews, a police horse rears, as even the best-trained will at the hitherto uncomprehending, and the very dogs forbear from widdling against the sign lest unpredictable consequences ensue. A house has been sold. A property has shifted. A deal has been done. In the *annus horribilis* of 1992, someone who wants to sell has actually come across someone who wants to buy.

Which of course means that all the Batemanesque effects listed above are as nothing compared to the catalysis wrought upon my neighbours. A house in their street has at last been unloaded. A house like theirs. All yesterday, they first peered from their

windows, then tip-toed up their front gardens, finally crept on to the pavement, and at last edged, as if actually bent on walking somewhere completely different, towards the house in question. Those of you who saw *It Came From Outer Space* and recall the moment when the villagers gingerly approach the buckled flying saucer steaming in their meadow, may perhaps understand how I, first to have seen the thing on my dawn jog, could scarce refrain from leaping into my neighbours' tentative paths, waving my hands and shouting: "For God's sake, stay back! This may be estate agency, my friends, but not as we know it!"

That I did not was almost certainly down to the instantly obvious fact that none of us was going to say anything at all. We were going to speak things, yes, but we were not going to say anything. Each knew what was in the others' minds, but none was going to push it off the top of his tongue. Conversations went like this:

"Ah, I don't suppose you've any idea what..." "Absolutely not, couldn't even begin to make a..." "No, of course not, but as a sort of what shall I say, ball-park, er..." "Well, I suppose one could phone the..." "I shouldn't think they'd..." "Right, and anyway, I'm not really..." "No, nor me, not in the slightest..." "Still, it's probably an indication that things..." "Well, the three round the corner are still on the..." "True, but they're not quite..." "Good point, this street has always..." "Well ex-

actly, after all, that's why we..." And then, after a fair bit of this had been winging hither and yon, the front door of the house opened. Whereupon nobody said anything at all, not even, "Have no fear, neighbouring, we mean you no harm, we come in peace," but after the vendor had smiled at us, backed his car out, and driven away, everybody started speaking again, still saying nothing, but this time saying it about the nothing they had previously said, viz:

"I suppose we could have come straight out and asked..." "I would have..." "I was going to..." "Me too, but then I thought, it's not really any of my..." "Precisely, and there's also the question of why he might have had to..." "Did he have to?" "I've no idea, but if he did, it was a strange one for..." "Then it was bound to affect the..." "And therefore not a true indication of..." "There's also the fact that the place itself is a bit, well..." "Yes, my wife had a quick look through the window, and she was quite..." "Mind you, one man's in need of some modernisation is another man's wealth of original features, ha, ha, so you can't really be..."

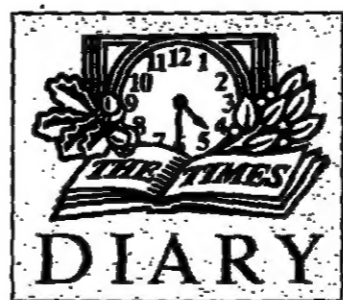
At which point, since it was now growing dark, the little knots of neighbours began gradually to unravel and drift back to their several premises. Where any spouses who had stayed home to baste the chicken asked (if I am any judge), "Well, what do you think?" And were told that it was impossible to say.

You say Yes,
I say No

EVEN as President Mitterrand went on French television last night to appeal for a "oui" vote in the Maastricht referendum, the shadow of Charles de Gaulle loomed over the debate as the general's own family divided over how France's greatest modern hero would have voted. The campaign office of Philippe Séguin was incensed at the way Mitterrand's campaign claimed the founder of the Fifth Republic as a supporter.

And small wonder. The general's own grandson, also named Charles de Gaulle, has been working around the clock for Séguin, the leader of the "non" campaign, which last night denounced what it called the "hijacking" of de Gaulle. Séguin's spokesperson, Benedicte Brissard, says: "Of course one may give any interpretation one wishes to the views of someone who is no longer here to defend them. But we think it is — how do you say? — inappropriate."

But Pierre de Boissieu, another member of the de Gaulle clan, and a senior civil servant in the French government, takes a contrary view. "Of course I support the treaty. I should do. I helped to write it. I am sure General de Gaulle would have voted Yes. He would have liked the skeleton of the treaty although I don't think he would have liked Mitterrand." And has the family debated its differences on the issue? "Non." De Gaulle's oldest friends have also been drawn into the argument. Maurice Schumann, the general's right-hand man as spokesman in London for the Free French during the war, says: "I can't imagine de Gaulle supporting such a treaty. But I abstain from quoting him. Genius is always unpredictable."



Sticking his neck out?

NINETY-ONE years of tradition will be abolished at a stroke next week when Uppingham School does away with that symbol of privilege, the old school tie.

Uppingham's plain funeral black was introduced in 1901 as a token of respect upon the death of Queen Victoria. Although probably few of the boys throughout the century have realised it, they have been in mourning ever since. On Monday, the first day of the new term, 600 boys will file into the school hall for assembly and will discover the new ties on their seats. At a word from the headmaster, Dr Stephen Winkley, the entire school will change from the old neckwear to the new.

Winkley, who designed the new tie himself, says: "When I came here a year ago, I thought all the boys looked very sombre, like penguins." The new tie is silver and blue. Winkley says: "I've called it pale Prussian blue because that has military overtones which will appeal to the old boys. Some of the school will be said to part with the black tie, because no one is more reactionary than a 15-year-old boy."

Jonathan Agnew, BBC cricket correspondent and an old Uppinghamian says: "About time. The whole uniform was black and white. It was grim. The boys looked like miniature undertakers."

● Heaven knows what Lady Howard de Walden, founder of Queen Charlotte's Ball, would make of it, but the English debutante social season appears to have been put out to commercial sponsorship. Not only will the 30 society girls at this year's debutantes' debut at Grosvenor House on September 14 be kitted out in white frocks lent by Burberry, wedding dress manufacturers to the county of Essex, but the top prize in the ball's auction is a holiday for four at Euro-Disney, where all the best-heeled debs can have their photographs taken with such society escorts as Donald Duck and Pluto. Fair enough, you may say, at a charitable event. But



do we really need Mickey Mouse wangling his way into the publicity shots — especially in what the ball organisers insist on describing as his "Henley outfit"?

15 minutes are up

WHEN the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh decided to stage a retrospective of the work of James Pryde, the singer Bryan Ferry was more than happy to lend some pictures from his own extensive collection. He was duly

invited to attend the exhibition which is running throughout the Edinburgh Festival. Ferry regrettably declined due to pressure of business, but Richard Calvocoressi, the keeper of the gallery, was delighted when he spotted a distinctive figure at the show. "Oh, Mr Ferry, so you could come after all," Calvocoressi exclaimed. "How good of you to spare the time." After a pause in which the gallery's distinguished visitor seemed lost for words, he eventually found his tongue. "Sorry, I am not Bryan Ferry. I am David Bowie."

Lost leader

LOOKING SPRUCE and with chin jutting as confidently ever, Neil Kinnock re-emerged on Wednesday night for his first public appearance since resigning as Labour leader. He joined a veritable who's who of retired Labour politicians celebrating better yesterday and the publication of Peter Hennessey's *Never Again*, a history of Labour Britain 1945-1951.

Kinnock's memories of the era must be mostly of spoonfuls of NHS cod-liver oil. But that did not prevent him speaking emotionally and humorously about the Attlee government — though at more than half-a-hour, for rather too long. He displayed only the faintest hint of bitterness when he referred to the unfinished work of past Labour governments, which he had himself hoped to complete. Then, as Hennessey asked for silence from the champagne-swilling chattering classes on the eighth-floor terrace outside, Kinnock remarked: "They can either be quiet or they can jump. That is the choice we all face these days." Among those chastised was Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrat MP, who popped his head around the door to enquire: "Has he admitted yet that he lost the election?"



THE CASE FOR RECALL

The Labour party leader, John Smith, has a good case for a recall of Parliament and the prime minister, John Major, has no good reason for refusing him. This has been a noisy summer. International events have been unfolding at a heady speed. In former Yugoslavia, Iraq and Somalia, let alone France. British forces have been promised to help the United Nations relief effort in the Balkans and aircraft have been sent to join the Gulf allies in Iraq. Meanwhile the economy has taken an unexpected turn for the worse, belying government forecasts. Parliament, which has been away for an unusually long recess, certainly has plenty to discuss.

Precedent is on Mr Smith's side. Recalls were granted in August 1968 to debate the Soviet invasion of Prague and the Nigerian civil war, and in August 1961 for the erection of the Berlin wall. In none of these were British troops involved. Refusals in 1979, 1980 and 1981 were better justified than this one. A debate on the steel strike in December 1979, for instance, could have awaited Parliament's return. But never before has an Opposition request for a recall been refused when a serious turn in international affairs was the issue, let alone when British troops were at risk.

The Labour party request may have been pure political tactics, an attempt to rebut widespread criticism of Mr Smith for failing to embarrass the government over the recessionary state of the economy. During the recess, his party can only oppose through newspaper columns, radio and television. Press conferences do not produce the guaranteed coverage of Parliament, nor do they force responses from ministers. A recall of Parliament would certainly allow Mr Smith to conduct a more active Opposition. But such tactical motivation does not undermine the case for a recall.

A recall would hardly be high risk for Mr

Major. Mr Smith has agreed to back government policy in former Yugoslavia and in Iraq. On the economy, the government may find itself trapped by sterling's position in the ERM and by its presidency of the EC, but the Opposition has argued itself into no less constrained a position. Desperate to shake off the incubus of the Callaghan government's ordeal by the IMF and years of irresponsibility in opposition, Labour dare not call for a sterling devaluation within the ERM, still less for a withdrawal from the mechanism altogether. It cannot oppose Maastricht. The extent of the consensus between the two front benches over the economy is extraordinary. The only real dissent comes from rebel backbenchers on both sides.

When Margaret Thatcher proclaimed that there was no alternative to her 1980s policies, the Opposition disagreed. Whether or not the disagreement was substantive, it was ferocious. Now Labour is reduced to asking for concerted interest-rate cuts throughout Europe — a policy that has no chance of happening — and some fiscal loosening, a necessary but by no means sufficient policy to bring Britain out of recession.

Labour cannot compete with the Conservatives as the party of financial probity. If voters want zero inflation they will vote for Mr Major not Mr Smith, however well-groomed the latter's City image. But that Labour finds it so hard to sell itself as the party best able to boost Britain out of recession is indeed a historical curiosity. There is no shortage of alternatives to the economic policies of the present government, but Labour can only turn a deaf ear to most of them. So why should Mr Major fear a recall of Parliament when the Opposition is not prepared even to aim an arrow at his Achilles' heel?

HOPE IN AFRICA

Is Africa hopeless? The extent of the public's "compassion fatigue" is about to be tested by yet another appeal to prevent starvation in black Africa. How is it that this vast continent, so fertile in animal, mineral and vegetable resources, has reached such an appalling state as to be dubbed "the Third World of the Third World"?

Unless the public is convinced there is some prospect for self-help in Africa, the private response to such appeals as that made by seven British charities yesterday will be merely dutiful. Governments will feel under no public pressure to be generous with their own help. If Africa's hopes of feeding its people rest entirely on Western good will, the real threat to Africa will be a continent-wide dependency culture lethally exacerbated by Western neglect.

The prospect is not as yet bleak. Since decolonisation, the World Bank has defined Africa as passing through three stages, each roughly a decade long: modest growth immediately after independence, a decade of stagnation, then a decade of decline. The chronic drought which is impoverishing most of southern Africa and the civil wars in Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan and Mozambique seem a logical extension of that depressing trend. Yet across the less publicised parts of Africa the story since 1989 is far from depressed, as if the promise of Macmillan's 1960s wind of change had been postponed until the 1990s.

The democratic and capitalist revolutions in Eastern Europe and Latin America have had their impact in Africa too. In 1990 alone, more African states switched to multi-party democracy than in the previous 30 years. Economic policies have also started to move from fantasy to reality, from state control and massive corruption to market freedom and private initiative, so the energies that drove "unofficial economies" and black markets can be legitimised and channelled for the common good. African ministers, public officials and entrepreneurs

of the new generation know that it is unacceptable for their continent to live off a permanent dole from the West.

Even the clouds have silver linings. The war in Somalia followed the end of a cruel communist dictatorship, whose collapse in turn followed the end of the Cold War. The world community's duty to feed Mozambican refugees may be seen as a price worth paying for that progress. Famine in Mozambique has devastated rebels and regime alike, and driven them into talks to end their civil war. The rebels of Renamo were sponsored by Pretoria in its apartheid days and the Mozambique Marxist government by Moscow. The improved prospects for peace in Mozambique — and with peace, a better hope of overcoming famine — reflect positive political changes around the globe as well as in neighbouring South Africa.

Nonetheless the short term is as brutal as the long term may be bright. Even allowing for aid-agency hyperbole, the scale of the present disaster dwarfs those of previous years several times over. Some 40 million in 12 countries are to some extent at risk, and a tenth of that number may die — 1.5 million in Somalia alone — unless food can reach them in time. These people are not wholly reliant on Western charity, and not every prediction of mass starvation comes true. But the southern drought is as severe as any this century and too widespread for the traditional remedy for local shortage, nomadism.

The neglect of agricultural incentives in the post-colonial era has rendered the food economies of tropical Africa notoriously precarious. Pouring in food to relieve immediate distress will prolong the pain of adjusting to market economies by the now familiar mechanism of distorting prices and disrupting farm communities. But the drought is now and humanity cannot ignore its consequences. What aid can and must do is ally itself to the wider movement for political and economic reform, a movement that is still Africa's best hope.

MELLOR'S MISSED CHANCE

The government's refusal to back the English Heritage plan to save Pitchford Hall in Shropshire intact with its contents is both sad and odd. Retaining old houses and presenting and interpreting them to the public is a peculiarly British talent. It is rooted in Britain's remarkable stock of buildings in continuous family occupation, complete with the furniture and fittings of centuries. No other nation has so rich an asset. No other asset so enriches a nation whose past is crucial to its future prosperity.

There is no reason why such houses need be taken into public ownership, so long as private citizens are available to maintain full custodianship. There is no substitute in the public sector for the meticulous care of a private owner, nor is there any reason why public money should be spent on houses if private money will do the trick.

However, the experiences of Heveningham and Littlecote indicate the risk of expecting the private sector always to preserve the integrity of important historic buildings. Whichever a new owner's good intentions, his circumstances can change. An estate that might have cross-subsidised a house can be broken up. Contents integral to a building's history and character can be sold and dispersed. Ultimately, the unity of a historic house must be regarded as more important than the form of its ownership.

Pitchford Hall is one of the loveliest Tudor houses in Britain, and is now a casualty of the Lloyd's insurance troubles. The existing owners, who care deeply about its future, are willing to give it free to the nation, provided somebody pays them for the contents to be left in situ. Some £1.8 million is required.

English Heritage has agreed to accept the house, at least for the time being, and had

negotiated a deal to buy the contents with the National Heritage Memorial Fund. The latter body is specifically charged to help in such last-resort rescues. A new tenant might be found and the house and its contents opened to the public. As at Brodsworth in Yorkshire, here was a good example of ad hoc agencies working together to achieve a commendable goal, halfway between public and private sectors. All were operating within their existing cash limits.

The heritage minister, David Mellor, has used his statutory power to stop the acquisition of Pitchford by English Heritage. He has done so because in his judgment English Heritage has other calls on its resources and Pitchford might be "detrimental of other activities" — money possibly being required for restoration work despite English Heritage having indicated that it was not asking for any more money as a result. A model for low-cost country house rescue has thus been sabotaged by a minister second-guessing a quango on matters that ought to be within its discretion.

Quite what is on Mr Mellor's mind is unclear. Pitchford is already on the market and Christie's will auction its contents separately later this month. Everybody had expected the English Heritage deal to proceed, to the greater glory of all involved, not least Mr Mellor. As it is, the pictures and furniture that make the house live and breathe are to be dispersed. The house will be sold as the sort of shell depressingly familiar to visitors to old houses elsewhere in Europe. Or is Mr Mellor now more concerned with his reputation at his old home, the Treasury? If so, he has not saved an amount that the denizens of that place would recognise as pocket money.

Achievers, high and low, in schools' A-level league

From the Master of Haileybury

Sir, Most school heads have little enthusiasm for league tables, though I suppose they do provide some mild amusement over the breakfast table, so long as appropriate criteria for comparison are selected. The choice of the average Ucas (Universities Central Council for Admissions) scores, though, is manifestly absurd, depending as it does very significantly on the number of subjects taken by individual candidates.

There are several serious and potentially damaging discrepancies in your league table of August 29, whereby schools with markedly superior A-level performances are rated below others which have entered candidates for a higher number of A or AS-level subjects.

A brief illustration from the Haileybury figures demonstrates the point. If I had instructed my 144 A-level candidates each to take one further A level, and if this had produced one pass and 143 failures, the A to E pass rate would have dropped from 95.4 per cent to 72 per cent, the grades A plus B from 53.6 per cent to 40 per cent, but the Ucas average point score would have increased.

If this annual folly is here to stay, I hope that a more sensible criterion will be chosen.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JEWELL,
Master,
Haileybury, Hertford,
September 1.

From the Headmaster of Bootham School, York

Sir, For some undeciphered reason you have decided that "top" schools must now be "large" schools — i.e. those with more than 40 candidates taking exams. Thus the smaller schools are arbitrarily excluded, even though our results are significantly better than those of many of the schools you have chosen to publish.

At Bootham, for example, our students achieved 54.8 per cent at A and B, 20.5 Ucas points per candidate on average and 3.1 passes each. We had 39 candidates this year, a proportion of 14.6 per cent of our 13+ pupils, placing us quite high in a full list.

Smaller schools still provide a full range of subjects at A level. We may well be less selective than larger schools in bigger towns and cities, but we achieve very creditable results in a tough market. Why do you wish to

deny our quality by ignoring our results?

You say that yours is a list of "top-performing schools". Which, I wonder, is the more creditable "performance" to guide a student with ten A-grade GCSEs to three A levels at grade A or B, or to guide a student with four C-grade GCSEs to three A levels at grade D or E? What price those schools which can do both?

Yours faithfully,
IAN SMALL,
Headmaster,
Bootham School, York,
August 29.

From the Headmistress of Stratford House School, Bromley

Sir, With all the current emphasis on league tables, where is the publicity for all those thousands of schools, maintained and independent, who do not have large sixth forms or a highly academic intake but nevertheless achieve for their students greater examination success than they appeared capable of at the age of 11?

A league table for all those schools who have sixth forms of less than 60 students would, I suspect, produce a higher pass rate than the ones currently being lauded, and a list of schools where all the students gained the qualifications they needed to go on to the further education of their choice would be even more revealing.

"Value added" education (leading article, August 29) is far more difficult to measure, but a much better indication of how "good" a school really is.

Yours faithfully,
ANN WILLIAMSON
(Chairman, Public and
Parliamentary Affairs Committee,
Secondary Heads Association),
Stratford House School,
8-10 Southborough Road,
Bickley, Bromley, Kent,
August 29.

From the Headmaster of Northamptonshire Grammar School

Sir, As the headmaster of a recently founded school, I rest in the hope that the evolution of A-level league tables will have stabilised by 1996 when, for the first time, we shall be able to present more than 40 candidates for assessment.

Your table is certainly to be preferred to its predecessors, both in terms of its criteria and its simplicity, yet it still hides vital information.

It was surely right to discount the subject general studies in the calculation

of the average number of subjects taken by each pupil, with AS subjects counting as halves; but the fairest may be to limit the calculations to each candidate's best three grades. Pupils at most schools study three A-level subjects; most university offers are based on the same number.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM TOZER,
Headmaster,
Northamptonshire Grammar School,
Pisford Hall,
Pisford, Northampton,
August 29.

From Mr Mike Travis

Sir, As you rightly say in your leading article, your A-level table simply shows an average mark for each school and makes no allowance for the different selection criteria adopted by each school. As with garbage in garbage out, you could say bright kids in bright kids out.

A much more interesting approach would be to develop some system to show the "value added" by each school. To set the ball rolling, I would suggest that the next time you publish the table you at least make some distinction between those schools which have strict academic entry qualifications and those that operate a more comprehensive entry system.

Yours faithfully,
MIKE TRAVIS,
4 Elm Lodge,
River Gardens, Fulham, SW6,
September 1.

From Dr Vyvyan Howard

Sir, Your table shows that only 10 per cent in the first 50 of the "top" 200 schools are mixed, whereas this category comprises no less than 6 per cent of the last 50. Is this of any significance?

Yours faithfully,
V. HOWARD,
38 Beresford Road, Oxton,
Birkenhead,
Merseyside,
August 30.

Owen's task in Geneva

From Sir Fitzroy Maclean

Sir, Lord Owen has, I think wisely, warned us not to expect too much of the UN-EC peace talks in Geneva (report, September 1). For the past year, despite ceasefire after ceasefire, the chief obstacle to any progress has been the repeated renewal of hostilities in one part or another of what was once Yugoslavia. And now, following the mildly encouraging London conference, the fighting in Bosnia has resumed yet again.

Another obstacle to progress has for some months now been the European Community's decision to grant early recognition to three of the former republics. By this its members have managed to weaken their own bargaining position and make any prospect of an overall settlement even remoter than before.

Court anomalies

From Mr M. J. Lee and Mr S. P. Higgins

Sir, Mr P. G. Wardle (letter, August 24) questions the "competence and impartiality of local magistrates" in comparing the relative sentences in his case and that of Mr Chris Eubank (report, August 18).

The magistracy can act only under powers conferred by Parliament. The power of magistrates in respect of an offence, like Mr Eubank's, of driving without due care and attention is a maximum fine of £1,000. In respect of non-compliance with a tree-preservation order, such as in Mr Wardle's case, the maximum possible fine is £20,000. Is it therefore unreasonable for magistrates to have a starting point proportionate to the maximum fine and to increase or decrease that amount in view of any possible aggravating features or mitigation?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN J. LEE,
S. P. HIGGINS,
Huddersfield Magistrates' Court,
The Court House, PO Box B37,
Civic Centre, Huddersfield,
West Yorkshire,
August 24.

Treatment costs

From Dr Peter E. Schlesinger

Sir, As a consultant gynaecologist, I have a patient who, whilst privately insured, is obliged to pay for all outpatient consultations, investigations and procedures. All in-patient investigations are paid for by the company.

Her condition customarily has been dealt with by in-patient diagnostic operation, but many such cases could be dealt with initially on an out-patient basis. Only a relatively small proportion of patients would require in-patient care thereafter, certainly cutting the total cost to companies and,

while wishing Lord Owen luck in his new task, we should, I feel, pay due tribute to his predecessor, Lord Carrington, who for the past 12 months has, with total commitment and characteristic courage, striven tirelessly to overcome these same obstacles, to establish some kind of communication between the conflicting parties and somehow find a formula which would put an end to the fighting and offer some hope of an eventual settlement.

His task has been an arduous and thankless one. However different in other respects, all Yugoslavs (and I use the term advisedly) have one quality in common, an utter reluctance, once aroused, to give in or compromise.

I am, etc.,
FITZROY MACLEAN,
Strachur House, Strachur, Argyll,
September 2.

Judges' pay

From Mr Geoffrey Care

Sir, I should like to add my voice to that of Judge Timothy Lawrence ("Part-timers who must be paid more", Law Times, August 4) and Judge Patrick Medd, QC (letter, August 13) regarding the pay of part-time members of the judiciary.

The judiciary in the immigration appellate authority numbers, in both its tiers, over 100 part-time members, some of whom concurrently sit as deputy circuit judges, recorders, coroners and chairmen of other tribunals. We all sit alone.

Without the right calibre of men and women to serve as part-time adjudicators this authority simply could not operate. The future, not only of the appellants but of their families, is in the hands of adjudicators and, in claims to asylum, frequently so is their life.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. CARE,
(Deputy Chief Adjudicator,
Immigration Appeals),
Immigration Appellate Authority,
Thames House,
231 Strand, WC2,
August 21.

ultimately, to their clients. However, the out-patient cost would have been approximately £200, compared with the in-patient charge of £700.

My patient did not wish to pay £200 but the company told me that this was its rule. Thus, she will duly be admitted at a cost of an extra £500 to the company, which of course will be reflected in next year's subscription.

It is not so much consultants' fees which force up costs as the hospital expenses, which make up 80 per cent of all in-patient bills.

Yours faithfully,
P. SCHLESINGER,
Mount Pleasant House,
Wanborough, Wiltshire.

Supply of organs for transplant

From the Director of the Institute of Liver Studies

Sir, The current shortage of organs for transplant patients in Britain would not be so severe if, as Mrs Audrey Watts-Osterlyng writes (letter, August 25), organs could be removed unless the person concerned had recorded an objection during life.

In the UK 30 per cent of potential donations are lost for transplantation because relatives refuse permission. It is not surprising that the many countries in Europe with "presumed consent" legislation, following on an earlier directive of the Council of Europe, have significantly higher rates of organ donation and transplantation.

I will be putting forward the case in favour of a change in legislation to "presumed consent" at a symposium to be held by the Department of Health on September 21, when ways of improving organ donation are to be considered.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER WILLIAMS,
Director,
Institute of Liver Studies,
King's College School of Medicine
and Dentistry,
Bessemer Road, SE5,
August 26.

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, Mrs Audrey Watts-Osterlyng is probably right: an "opting out" arrangement whereby those not wishing to be post-mortem tissue donors could register accordingly should increase the supply of donor organs for transplantation in this country. It requires the setting up of a computerised register which could be consulted on a 24-hour basis when potential donors become available.

However, this misses the point made by the brave Paula Moss (report, August 19) who, at the age of ten, simply told her mother of her wishes in this manner. Perhaps we should all learn a lesson from her example.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROSBY,
University Hospital of Wales,
Heath Park, Cardiff,
August 26.

From Mr John Crawford

Sir, I would suggest that it is not enough to carry a donor card as the question of organ donation is often not broached at the critical time because of a reluctance on the part of doctors to cause additional distress to relatives.

A potential donor must impress upon his next-of-kin that he wishes his organs to be used and that they should raise the question immediately on being told of his death.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CRAWFORD,
3 Heath Avenue,
Lenzie, Glasgow,
September 1.

Economic forecast

From Mr John Cooper

Sir, Professor Paul Ormerod criticises economists for their failure to predict the world recession (British Association meeting report, August 26). This seems unfair to Nicola Kondratieff, who did predict future trends very well. Anyone who predicted the present world recession from studies made 60 years earlier deserves respect. Why do economists not use Kondratieff's theory, which predicted, for example, the end of the house price boom in the UK?

He argued that there are 50-year cycles in prices, interest rates and wages, and in business activity, with about 20 years of expansion and inflation, followed, after a decade of ups and downs, by 20 years of deflation and recession.

Kondratieff predicted the slump in the closing years of the 20th century. If the government used his theory it might do a lot better — or is it afraid of telling the truth about the economic prospects?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COOPER,
Coopers
(Marine Insurance Consultancy),
Lime Kiln Quay,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk,
August 28.

Business letters, page 19

Sex discrimination

From Mr Sidney Franks

Sir, In my house the main bedroom is correctly referred to as the master bedroom (Ms Ruth Kendall's letter, September 3) quite simply because that is where the master of the house sleeps.

Notwithstanding 42 years of marriage I am still permitted to sleep with her.

Yours truly,
S. FRANKS,
106 Theobald Street,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

From Mr J. Stanley Heath

Sir, Would not "mistress bedroom" indicate moral turpitude?

Yours faithfully,
J. STANLEY HEATH,
58a Church Street,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire,
September 3.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE

September 3: Today the Prince of Wales visited Aberdeen and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Aberdeen (Councillor James Wynnes, the Lord Provost).

This morning His Royal Highness visited BP Exploration at Dyes, Aberdeenshire, to inaugurate the Miller Field.

This afternoon The Prince of Wales, President of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust and The Prince's Trust, met young people helped by the Trusts, at Highland Group, Dye.

Mr Hugh Merrill was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Miss Joan Aiken, novelist, 68; Sir Hubert Bennett, architect, 83; Miss Ann Burdus, marketing and advertising executive, 59; Sir John Charnley, consultant in advanced technology, 70; Sir Michael Day, chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 59; Lord Dornier, 78; Mr Peter Drew, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow, 65; Mrs Ann Dummert, former director of Runnymede Trust, 62; Lord Howell, 69; Sir Nicholas Jackson, 69; Sir Bill Kenwright, theatrical impresario, 47; Mr Dinsdale Landon, actor, 60; Mr Chief Marshal Sir David Lee, 80; Sir William Mars-Jones, 77; Mrs Elizabeth Peacock, MP, 55; Lord Sandhurst, 72; Mr Tom Watson, golfer.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Yachting Association, will visit Burnham Sailing Week, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, at 11.00.

The Duke of Kent, Captain, will attend the centenary dinner at the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club, Brancaster, King's Lynn, at 7.45.

Meeting

Religious Press Group

The Ambassador of Israel was the speaker at a meeting of the Religious Press Group, held yesterday at the Reform Club. Sir Sigmund Sternberg, convenor, presided.

Lady Emma Chanter

Lady Emma Chanter gave birth to a son in Somerset on August 21.

Kate Wharton

A memorial service for Kate Wharton will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, on Wednesday, September 23, at noon.

Appointments

Latest appointments include: Lord Belsford to be Chairman of the Parole Board, from October 3, in succession to Viscount Colville of Culross, QC.

Sir Michael Palfrey, Chairman of Samuel Montagu, to be President of the China Britain Trade Group (CBTG).

Mr William Antony Wiseman, of Telford, to be a Deputy Lieutenant for Berkshire.

Mr John Anthony Browne to be a provincial stipendiary magistrate for the South Yorkshire commission area, based at Sheffield, with effect from October 19.

Mrs Christine Bird to be Chairman of the New Cavendish Club, London, in succession to Mrs Owen Walker.

Dinner

British Safety Council

Mr James Tye, Director-General of the British Safety Council, was host at a dinner held last night at the Royal Overseas League for the council's presentation of Faculty of Risk Management associateships.

Blacksmiths' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Blacksmiths' Company for the ensuing year: Prime Warden, Mr C.C. Bates; Renner Warden, Mr B.J.M. Iles; Third Warden, Mr B.F. Land; Fourth Warden, Mr D.D. Dennis.

Coachmakers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Coachmakers' and Coach Harness Makers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr A.J.D. Ferguson; Senior Warden, Mr P.C.K. O'Farrell; Renner Warden, Mr A.R. Maddox; Junior Warden, Mr P.G. Sparks.

Royal designation

Gaelic's annual festival of music and drama will in future be known as the Royal National Mod.

The Queen has approved the designation in recognition of the work done by an Am Comunn Gaidhealach (The Gaelic Association) over the past 100 years. It will take effect from this year's event, which is to be held in Oban tomorrow.

Last night, Mr Donald MacRitchie, Am Comunn's president, said: "We are delighted to accept this honour which is in appreciation for all the voluntary work done since 1892."

Then, the very first Mod, also at Oban, lasted for a few hours. But this year, it will be spread over a week. Nearly 1,000 singers, actors and musicians have entered the 139 competitions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

EDWARDS - On August 30th, suddenly and peacefully at home, Captain Thomas Lawrence Edwards B.E.M., aged 72 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Thursday, September 10th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

GOODWIN-WILLIAMS - On Thursday, September 3rd, peacefully, at home, Mrs. Margaret Goodwin Williams, nee Barrow, aged 74 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, September 5th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

HAYGARTH - On August 31st, peacefully, at home, Mrs. Mary Haygarth, nee Brown, aged 74 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, September 5th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

JACKSON - On August 29th, peacefully, at home, Mrs. Anne Jackson, nee Brown, aged 72 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, September 5th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

ROONEY - On Friday, August 28th, peacefully, at home, Mrs. Mary Rooney, nee Brown, aged 72 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, September 5th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

TRON - On September 2nd, peacefully, at home, Mrs. Mary Tron, nee Brown, aged 72 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, September 5th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

DEANE - On August 29th, peacefully, at home, Mrs. Mary Deane, nee Brown, aged 72 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, September 5th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

DOXFORD - On August 23rd, peacefully, at home, Mrs. Mary Doxford, nee Brown, aged 72 years. Funeral Service to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne, on Saturday, September 5th at 11.00 am. Flowers welcome. Donations if desired to the Royal National Mod. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Eastbourne. Tel. 0323 622666.

PERSONAL APPEARS IN LIFE & TIMES
SECTION - PAGE 7



Alexandra Lewis, aged five, stealing the limelight during preparations for Queen Charlotte's Ball at Grosvenor House hotel on September 14. Alexandra is due to present a bouquet to the Duchess of Somerset, Anne Worsley (left). Samantha Nix, Cheska Wood and Georgina Griffith give their ballgowns and pearls an airing.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Francis René, Vicome de Chateaubriand, politician and writer, St. Malo, 1768; Anton Bruckner, composer, Ansfelden, Austria, 1824; Darius Milhaud, composer, Aix-les-Bains, 1892; Albert Schweitzer, missionary, physician, philosopher and musician, Nobel peace laureate 1952, Lambarene, Gabon, 1905; Georges Simenon, novelist, 1903. Forth road bridge opened, 1969.

School news

The Michaelmas Term begins today. Magnus Guthrie-Brown becomes Head Boy and Jane Steggle becomes Head Girl. An Open Meeting for Prospective Parents will be held in the Courtyard on Saturday, September 10, 10.30am. The new sixth form library and classroom block and the new tennis and netball courts will be in use. The Half Term holiday is from Monday, October 19, to Friday, October 30, inclusive followed by three performances of *The Crucible* on November 5, 6 and 7. Prizegiving and the formal opening of the new library will be in the afternoon of November 24, when the guest will be Lord Palumbo. The Junior Department Carol Service is at 2.30pm on December 11 and the Christmas Concert on December 16, at 7.30pm. Term ends on December 18.

The Rememberance Day Service will take place in Brentwood Cathedral on November 11, at 10.30am. The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols takes place in St Thomas' Church at 6.30pm on December 13. Term ends on December 18.

Queenswood School

The Autumn Term at Queenswood School begins on Sunday, September 6, with Fiona Gilmore as Head Girl and Sophie Burden as Deputy Head Girl. Commemoration Day is on Friday, October 23 and the guest speaker will be Lord Parkinson.

There will be a "Country Fayre Family Fun Day" on Saturday, September 26, from 11.00am to 5.00pm. Please contact the school for further information. The Carol Service for Governors and Old Queenswoodians is at 2.30pm on Saturday, December 12, in the school Chapel. There will be Old Queenswoodian hockey matches at 11.00am that morning.

The Lady Eleanor Hoiles School, Hampton, Middlesex

Full term began on Thursday, September 3, with 823 girls in the school. The Head Girl is Sara Hamilton and her deputy is Sian Davies. The new sixth form library and classroom block and the new tennis and netball courts will be in use. The Half Term holiday is from Monday, October 19, to Friday, October 30, inclusive followed by three performances of *The Crucible* on November 5, 6 and 7. Prizegiving and the formal opening of the new library will be in the afternoon of November 24, when the guest will be Lord Palumbo. The Junior Department Carol Service is at 2.30pm on December 11 and the Christmas Concert on December 16, at 7.30pm. Term ends on December 18.

Royal School

The Michaelmas Term starts today and ends on October 17.25. The School Play is *Oh, What a Lovely War* on November 18-21.

University news

Wolverhampton

Mrs Maureen Hicks, formerly MP for Wolverhampton North East, is to be an honorary fellow of the university's business school.

Lancaster

Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside, Cumbria, has become the Lake District campus of Lancaster University. The Victorian college of education is now the university's new faculty of teacher education and training.

Mesolithic find on Orkney

FLINTS found at a number of sites on Orkney have been found to be mesolithic, dating back to before the later years of the Stone Age. It was disclosed for the first time this week (Kerry Gill writes).

The discoveries were made by Caroline Wickham-Jones, an Edinburgh archaeologist, under the auspices of the Northern Studies and Archaeology Service. As part of her work, she went on to study the coast of Caithness and north-west Sutherland for more, possibly mesolithic sites, a time that fell between the palaeolithic and neolithic periods.

Although there were none in Caithness, in Sutherland she found a previously unknown mesolithic site, evidence that there were people within sight of Orkney several thousand years before the first neolithic settlers reached the islands. Professor Derek Roberts, of Newcastle University, disclosed at the British Association for the Advancement of Science, that among Orkneyans there was a high incidence of blood-group B, comparatively rare elsewhere in the UK, indicating that the people of Orkney appeared to be an outpost of an ancient population.

Male challenge

Step forward Christian man, author urges

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AFTER New Man and Wild Man, comes Christian man, according to Roy McCloughry, an author and social researcher. In a book to be published later this month he argues that men in the Church of England have dwelled on the debate over women priests and neglected their changing role as men.

"There has been no discussion of why men in the church have reacted as defensively as they have done to the issue of women in leadership," he says.

"We have been holding workshops on things like Marxism and humanism for years. Masculinity is one of the last world views to be opened up to discussion."

Mr McCloughry, a lecturer

in social theology at St John's College, Nottingham, said some men began to question their masculinity in response to feminism. Many became "new men", sharing the housework, caring and breadwinning with their female partners.

More recently, others have embraced the "wild man" concept, based on US author Robert Bly's bestseller *Iron John*. They go on "wild man" weekends, building fires and getting in touch with their emotions through group exercises.

Mr McCloughry, who lives with his wife and three children in Nottingham, said that although new men are generally nice men, the concept can be an unwelcome imposition on men not naturally inclined to feminine virtues. The danger of wild man, new man or antithesis, is that he polarises the differences between men and women.

"Many men are beginning to feel trapped by the views they have taken on board about masculinity. Christianity says men and women share a common humanity but are different."

"Many men have an image they project to the world, to do with jobs, status and cars."

"Jesus had to be a man because if a woman had washed the dirty feet of the disciples, nobody would have noticed. Only men had power, so Jesus is the man who gave up power. That is why he is significant for us today."

He began his research, funded by the Kingdom Trust, a Christian consultancy, after attempting to buy a book on men in a local bookshop. The assistant directed him to women's studies and humour.

Prompted to write the book he was looking for, *Men and Masculinity*, published later this month by Hodder & Stoughton, Mr McCloughry drew on his experience as a member of a men's group which met first in a pub.

"Christianity sets men free to be themselves. There is a great deal to celebrate in being a man."

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.E. Bruce-Smythe and Miss K.J. Pearson

The engagement is announced between Gavin, younger son of the late Mr David Bruce-Smythe and of Mrs Bruce-Smythe, of Aston Burnell Park, Shropshire, and Katrina, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Pearson, of Overton Hall, Lancashire.

Mr S.G. Burton and Miss S.E. Head

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Brigadier and Mrs Christopher Burton, of Andover, Hampshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Head, of Hanson, Cambridgeshire.

Mr J.D.E. Boucher and Miss L.B. Allison

The engagement is announced between John, younger son of Mr and Mrs James Boucher, of Hookwood House, Linsfield, Surrey, and Lucinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Allison, of The Manor House, Barrisford, Hexham, Northumberland.

Mr G.B. Cameron and Miss R.G. Mathieson

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Rosie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Mathieson, of Cramond, Edinburgh, and Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs Alison Cameron, of Newton Mearns, Glasgow.

Mr P.G. Crane and Miss J.A. Baker

The engagement is announced between Peter Gerald, son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Crane, of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, and Jane Allison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Baker, of Groombridge, East Sussex.

Mr G.S. Dalton and Miss J.C. Wilson

The engagement is announced between Gregory, son of Mr Edward Dalton, of Sydney, NSW, and Miss Janet Wilson, of Brisbane, Queensland, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr Douglas Wilson and the late Mrs Penelope Wilson, of Alton, Hampshire.

Mr K. El-Lahham and Miss M.L. Scott

The engagement is announced between Karim, younger son of the late Mr Hisham El-Lahham, of Damascus, and Miss Safa El-Wakil, of Cairo, and Mariella, younger daughter of Sir Richard and Lady Scott, of Fosco, Buckingham.

Mr D.J.R. Hoare and Miss C.J. Lawrence

The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mr John Hoare and the late Mrs John Dymoke White, and Clare, daughter of Mrs Douglas Lawrence and the late Mr Douglas Lawrence.

Mr M.A.E. Jolly and Miss A.M. Fox

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs M.A.E. Jolly, of Severn, Shropshire, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs N.T. Fox, of Smeeton Westerby, Leicestershire.

Mr J.M. Korn and Miss J.A. Cosgrove

The engagement is announced between Joel, youngest son of Mr and Mrs David Korn, of Birmingham, and Abigail (Abby), daughter of Mr and Mrs John Cosgrove, of Edinburgh.

Mr S.B.T. Laidlaw and Miss G.C. Harrison

The engagement is announced between Stephen, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Pierre Laidlaw, of Paris, and Greta, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Harrison, of Averbach Park, Newark.

Mr T.J. Leach and Miss L.A. O'Kell

The forthcoming marriage is announced between Timothy, son of Mrs J.P. Leach and the late Mr R.K.J. Leach, of Malvern, Worcestershire, and Lyanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.A. O'Kell, of Mundesley, Norfolk.

Mr E.G. Michell and Miss P.L. Ikin

The engagement is announced between Eric, only son of Mrs Mary Michell, of the Coach House, Marlow and Mr Brian Michell, of Ferry Close, Cambridge, and Pamela, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Ikin, of Swaffham, Norfolk.

Mr M.G.F. Reid and Miss L.M. Jackson

The engagement is announced between Max Reid, of Orchard House, Lower Hayton, Ludlow, Shropshire, only son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Reid, of Ludlow, Shropshire, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Jackson, of Charly Hall, Fowlmere, Cambridgeshire.

Dr R.W.B. Sells and Miss B.L. Ainscow

The engagement is announced between Rupert, elder son of Mr R. Sells, of Liverpool and Mrs E. Mansfield, of Coltharbour, Surrey, and Bridgette, only daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Ainscow, of Torquay.

Mr S. Thorne and Miss A.P. Leeson

The engagement is announced between Stephen, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Truman, of Worth, Sussex, and Alison, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs J. Leeson, of Peck Wood, Kent.

Mr J.I. Wayne and Miss T.G. Dunsley

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs Sidney Wayne, of Hampstead, London, and Tara, daughter of Dr and Mrs Irvin Dunsley, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Marriages

The Duke of Roxburgh

and Miss V.M. Wynn-Williams

A service of blessing was held yesterday at Christ Church, Chelsea, after the marriage of the Duke of Roxburgh to Miss Virginia Wynn-Williams, daughter of Mr David Wynn-Williams and of Mrs Christopher Edwards.

Mr A.J.S. Batho and Dr A. McKee

The marriage took place on August 29, 1992, at Kings College Chapel, Aberdeen, between Alexander (Sandy) Batho and Angel McKee.

Mr M.B. Gerrard and Miss J.A. Fearon

The marriage took place on August 29, at St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico, of Michael, son of Mr and Mrs R.T. Gerrard, of Epsom, Surrey, to Janet, daughter of the late Mr E.M. Fearon and of Mrs H.A. Fearon, of Banbridge, County Down.

Mr R.J. Treves and Miss G.S.T. Fairchild

A private service of blessing was held on Thursday, August 27, at St Jude's, Courtyard Gardens, London, after the marriage at Chelsea Register Office of Richard James, son of the late Mr and Mrs Robert Treves, of West Chillington, Sussex, to Gillian Sabine Treves, only daughter of Mrs Teresa Fairchild, of Parsons Green, London, and Mr William Fairchild.

The reception will be held at a later date.

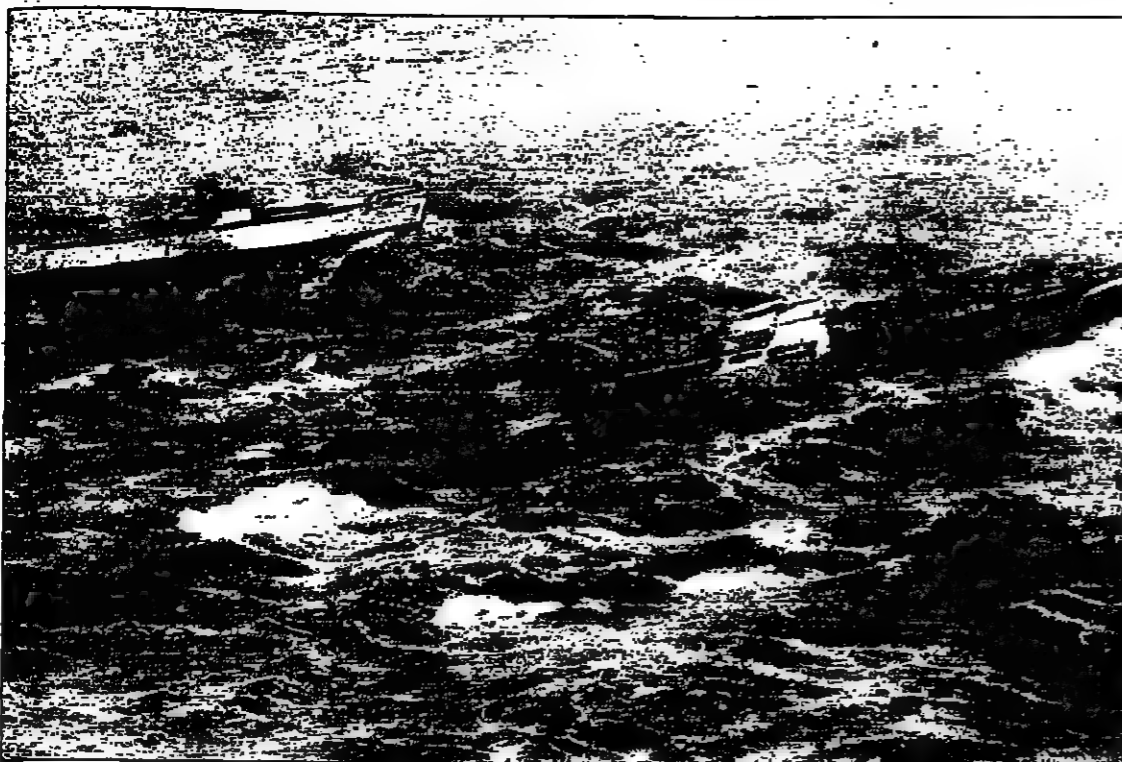
Mr P.H. Wolton and Miss J.E. Payne

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 1, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Peckham, of Mr Peter Wolton, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Wolton, of Little Sactham, Suffolk, to Miss Joanna Payne, elder daughter of Mr Gilmore Payne, of Holford, Somerset, and Miss Charles Barclay, of Brent Pelham, Hertfordshire. The Rev Gerald Drew officiated, assisted by Father John Vine.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Kate Madocks Wright, Eleanor Sier, Georgina Budgett, Claire Floyd, Camilla Buckmaster, Mrs Woods and Benjamin Barclay. Mr Michael Spriggs was best man. A reception was held at Brent Pelham Hall and the honeymoon was spent in Madeira and Portugal.

OBITUARIES

HAROLD HARVEY



Peril on the sea: the stricken Greek freighter Nafsiropos, left, helped by the Russian ship Kunkurley

Harold Harvey, a lifeboat inspector whose bravery in the rescue of crew from a stricken Greek freighter off the Welsh coast in 1966 won him a gold medal, died on August 23 aged 71. He was born on September 17, 1920.

HAROLD Harvey's courage and initiative won him the unusual honour of the RNLI's gold medal for gallantry. The distinction is so rare that it has been conferred only nine times since the end of the second world war. The service for which Harvey earned his resulted in the award of two of those nine gold medals. It was for the rescue of the crew of the Greek motor vessel Nafsiropos.

The Nafsiropos was reported in difficulties in the Irish Sea on the morning of December 2, 1966. Harold Harvey, the inspector of lifeboats for the north-west, happened to be in Holyhead when the report came through. With the

agreement of the crew, he joined the Holyhead lifeboat whose ensign was Thomas Alcock. A severe northerly gale, force 10, was blowing and gusting to force 11. Because of flying spindrift visibility was down to 500 yards.

Two other lifeboats, those stationed at Douglas in the Isle of Man, and Moelfre in Anglesey, were also called out. When the Holyhead and Moelfre lifeboats approached the Nafsiropos she was seen to roll up to 35 degrees either side of the vertical. She was pitching so much that her forefoot bulge keels and propeller were, in turn, clear of the water. She could not be brought up into the wind. A Russian timber vessel, the Kunkurley, managed to get a towline aboard her but, because of the tremendous strength of the wind and the sea conditions, attempts to bring the Nafsiropos head to wind were unsuccessful and the tow parted.

By this time there was no longer enough sea room for any attempt to be made to reconnect the tow. The

Nafsiropos scraped close past the Ethel Rock Buoy and dropped her port anchor, but it failed to hold. She continued to drag until she fetched up less than a quarter of a mile from the rocks. Here the depth of the water was only about six fathoms.

While waiting for the Nafsiropos to be brought up to her anchor the Holyhead lifeboat had been hove to less than a quarter of a mile off her port quarter. Coxswain Alcock, in command of the Holyhead lifeboat, brought her round the stern. The Nafsiropos then gave an extreme roll to starboard. Her counter crashed heavily on the port quarter of the lifeboat causing considerable damage. Coxswain Alcock had to go full ahead and hard to starboard to avoid any further damage.

The starboard boat of the Nafsiropos was hanging vertically from the after davit and the jumping ladder, down which the crew would have to come, was only about half a boat's length above the hanging boat. At this stage Coxswain Alcock asked



Harold Harvey to take command, a decision which was stated in the official report to demand both physical and moral courage on his part.

Late in the afternoon Harold Harvey shaped up for the final run. Four survivors were taken aboard. Then, just after the fifth survivor had followed them, the falls of the ship's boat parted and the boat came crashing down. Harvey, foreseeing this danger, had kept the lifeboat's engines astern and they were put at full throttle. The alarm was shouted and the men on the deck of the lifeboat just managed to jump aft before the ship's boat crashed down

on the deck. The ten other members of the Nafsiropos's crew were rescued by the Moelfre lifeboat in an equally hazardous operation for which Coxswain Richard Evans was also awarded the RNLI's gold medal. The Nafsiropos was eventually towed to safety by the Dutch tug Utrecht.

Harold Harvey was in the service of the RNLI from 1952 to 1973. He had earlier served as an observer in the Fleet Air Arm where he saw service on Russian convoys and in the Mediterranean.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret, by his daughters, Imogen and Madeline, and by a son, Mark.

JAMES VENUS

James Venus, shipbuilder, died on August 21 after a short illness in the London Clinic aged 71. He was born in October 1920.

JAMES Venus created what was then the world's largest fully-enclosed shipyard, which helped bring about a revolution in shipbuilding. Until he left British Shipbuilders a few years ago, on grounds of ill health, Venus was chairman and managing director of Sunderland Shipbuilders, within the Government-operated British Shipbuilders; he also headed Appledore Shipbuilders in North Devon. The Pallion yard in Sunderland and the smaller Appledore shipyard both have shipyards which were designed, built and controlled by Venus for under-cover all-weather construction. The steel supplies entered at one end, the ship with the completed hull and all machinery installed emerging from the other. This is a policy since adopted by many shipyards but the Pallion yard was then the world's largest fully-enclosed yard, based on Venus's earlier concept adopted for Appledore.

Born and educated in Newcastle-on-Tyne, he was apprenticed in the Hebburn-on-Tyne yard of Hawthorn Leslie, builders of cargo liners, passenger ships and warships. While at Hawthorn Leslie, he received a City & Guilds silver medal and the Duke of Northumberland prize for naval architecture from Rutherford College. On leaving Hawthorn Leslie he served in the Ministry of Transport as a surveyor, then in London for the Aluminium Development Association. Subsequently Venus became a founding partner of the consultant naval architects, Burness, Corlett & Partners.

However, on leaving Burness, Kendall (now Burness, Corlett & Partners), Venus set up Seawork Ltd. for the building of small ships in Appledore and at a smaller shipyard in Gateshead-on-Tyne, at Friars Goose, on the River Tyne. The Appledore and Tyneside yards duly built a successful range of small ships — steel fishing vessels, the first stern trawlers, coastal cargo ships, dredgers and under cover in Appledore, a series of minesweepers for Nato navies.

However, Venus's outlook and prospects changed substantially when his small shipbuilding interests were acquired by the shipowners, Court Line, which elected him to the group's board, with responsibilities for shipbuilding. It was not long before his plans were adopted for a completely new concept in shipbuilding at Appledore: a totally enclosed "ship factory" capable of constructing in a wide dock two 10,000 ton ships simultaneously, side-by-side. Such a shipyard was eventually built on a green



builders was denationalised, due partly to the EC dictates against continued financial aid. Before this Venus, having survived a coronary operation, had gone into semi-retirement, spending more of his time at the Appledore shipyard. Later he advised shipowners and builders on new contracts for sand and gravel dredgers and other vessels.

The marine industries have lost a powerful leader. Jim Venus was a very positive shipbuilder: he could be hard in business, especially with incompetents — a sign of his own exceptional abilities and eager achievement.

Venus is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

GEORGE MONGER

George William Monger, civil servant and historian, died in Barnes on September 1 aged 55. He was born on April 1, 1937.

GEORGE Monger was by instinct and education an historian who, when young, wrote a well-known and extremely good book about British foreign policy — *The End of Isolation 1900-1907* — for which he was awarded the Alexander Prize of the Royal Historical Society, and then spent the rest of his life as a civil servant.

He was educated at Holloway School, Islington, and Jesus College, Cambridge, where he took firsts in both parts of the historical tripos. After writing a PhD under the supervision of Professor Sir Harry Hinsley, which formed the basis for his book, he failed to get a fellowship and entered the administrative class of the civil service in 1961.

As a civil servant Monger had all the qualities that he had had as an historian — hard-mindedness, the ability to master complicated material and an enviable capacity for presenting the problems involved in a lucid and powerful prose, along with high qualities of judgment and practical effectiveness.

His progress was rapid. He became a principal in 1965, an assistant secretary in 1972, and an under-secretary in 1976 at the unusually early age of 39. Throughout his career he served in intellectual-

ly demanding posts at the centre of government. He became an expert on energy, social security and fiscal policy and, from 1987 to 1990, was a member of the Cabinet Office secretariat. After returning to the Treasury in 1991, he was diagnosed as having cancer and was on sick leave pending retirement at the time of his death.

Monger had an extraordinary intellectual energy which enabled him to establish a high reputation at an early age. At the same time he was a very private person, even, perhaps, a loner. His intellectual energy was not cushioned by flexibility or clubbability, and it is certain that this made the latter part of his career less striking than the earlier. Even when most successful as a civil servant he had hankering after academe and took unsuccessful steps to give effect to them. When illness struck, he had been considering retiring early in order to resume work as an historian and there can be little doubt that, had he done so, he would have produced highly distinguished work. However, it is as a notable civil servant that he will be remembered primarily.

Monger was an honourable and extraordinarily hard-working man whose enthusiasm for clarity was indelible and whose initial socialist belief in government was slowly eroded by experience. He was unmarried, lived for most of his life with his parents, and was a conscientious son who is survived by his mother.

COLONEL T. E. FIELD

Colonel Thomas Eginton Field, MBE, FRCPath, former director of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service, died at home in Belfast on July 24 aged 76. He was born on September 24, 1915.

"TOFFIE" Field remained unperturbed by the death threats he received while director of the Northern Ireland Blood Transfusion Service, a post he held from 1969 to 1980.

Prominent figures with a military background lead an unquiet life in Northern Ireland, and the threats made against Field were many. He was not intimidated by these nor by road blocks set up by paramilitaries. During the Ulster Workers' strike of 1974, Field, instead of turning back at a road block, jumped from his car and addressed the throng, saying: "I need you, you and you, to come and give blood." The crowd melted away.

Field rapidly transformed the service and, for his contributions to the Blood Transfusion Services in the United Kingdom, he was presented with the Oliver Memorial Award in 1979.

Field was educated at Campbell College, Belfast, the source of many distinguished officers of the armed forces. He was head prefect, and captain of rugby and cricket, and captain of the Ulster Schoolboys rugby team.

He graduated from Queen's University of Belfast in 1939, and, upon the declaration of war, volunteered for military service. He was in North Africa with the Field Ambulance that supported the Guards Brigade in the 6th Armoured Division. He was involved throughout the Italian campaign. During the bitter, bloody battles for Monte Cassino, he commanded a field ambulance supporting the assault troops. He was mentioned in dispatches and was appointed MBE in June 1945.

At the end of the war in Europe he had the misfortune to witness the forcible



hand-over of Cossacks with their women and children to the forces of Stalin. For one with a deep sense of honour, this experience was distressing and remained a source of disquiet for the rest of his life.

In 1945 he accepted a regular commission in the RAMC. Rapidly promoted, he was commanding officer of 83 General Hospital in 1946. He then specialised in pathology and, within this discipline, ably combined the skills of clinician, researcher and lecturer.

In addition to his many campaign medals, he was awarded several for academic achievement: the Montefiore medal and prize in military surgery (1950), the Katherine Webb medal and prize in tropical medicine (1950), the Alexander memorial medal and prize (1958) and the Leisuman memorial

medal and prize (1964) for his significant contribution to typhoid vaccine development.

In 1953 he was involved in monitoring radiation fall-out during the atomic bomb tests at Woomera, Australia. He later directed army laboratories in Germany and Singapore and the David Bruce Laboratories in Witwatersrand. In 1964 he was appointed professor of pathology at the Royal Army Medical College, Millbank. After the death of his first wife, Madge, he decided to relinquish his service career and return to Northern Ireland with his four children.

In 1965 he succeeded Brigadier Thomas Davidson as medical superintendent of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. The members of the consultant staff, like those of any great teaching hospital, had strong and varied personalities, but Field had the respect and affection of them all. He combined quiet, seemingly effortless authority with a natural charm that disarmed any opposition.

Although an imposing figure, he was the particular friend of the most junior members of medical staff, the sometimes unruly housemen, and this friendship was reciprocated.

Gregarious in nature, he was a remarkable raconteur. He had innumerable friends, local, national and international and his generosity was renowned. He had a lifelong interest in sport, and had been looking forward to watching the Fourth Test against Pakistan on television the day before he died. He played first-class golf until he was no longer able to maintain his own high standard. As a young man, he had excelled at rugby, football, tennis and cricket. He was also a fine snooker player, an excellent bridge player and a "mean" poker player.

Field was one of nature's gentlemen, emanating kindness, courtesy and humour. Above all else, he was a family man. He had two very happy marriages. He is survived by his second wife, Moyra, one son and three daughters.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Michael Coldough, Team Rector of Uxbridge and Area Dean of Hillingdon (London) is to be Archdeacon of Northolt, succeeding the Ven. Eddie Shirras who is moving to a parish in Winchester Diocese.

The Rev John Barnes, Vicar, St Peter's, Rawdon (Bradford) is to be Rector, Armthorpe St Leonard and St Mary (Sheffield).

The Rev Robert Cook, Vicar, Halwhistle and Greenhead and Rural Dean of Hexham (Newcastle) is to be also an Honorary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral.

The Rev Michael Eden, Team Vicar, Northampton Emmanuel is to be Vicar, Corby St Columba and the Northern Saints (Peterborough).

The Rev George Glover, Curate, Sherburn with Pittington is to be Priest-in-Charge, Trimdon Station, St Alban and St Paul (Durham).

The Rev David Goodacre, Vicar, Ovingham (Newcastle)

is to be also an Honorary Canon of Newcastle Cathedral.

The Rev Peter Gray-Smith, Assistant Curate, Cannock Team is to be Team Vicar, St John's Heath Hayes, Cannock (Lichfield).

The Rev Thomas Harper, Team Vicar, Bellingham and Corsenside, in the North Tyne and Redesdale Team Ministry is to be Team Rector, North Tyne and Redesdale Team Ministry (Newcastle).

The Rev Noel Hector, Curate, St Mary, Rodbourne Cheney is to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Redcliffe (Bristol).

The Rev Ian Hunter-Smith, Team Vicar, Jarrold Team Ministry is to be Chaplain to the University of Sunderland, and Team Vicar in the Sunderland Team Ministry (Durham).

The Rev Canon Anthony Johnson, Rector, East Knoyle, Semley and Sedgill (Salisbury) is to be appointed a Canon Emeritus of Salisbury Cathedral on retirement.

The Rev Brian Johnson, Hon Curate, St Barnabas, Dulwich is to be Hon Curate, St

Paul w St Saviour, Herne Hill (Southwark).

The Rev Geoffrey Miller, Urban Development Adviser, diocese Durham is to be also Town Centre Community Chaplain, Stockton, same diocese.

The Rev Ross Moughtin, Vicar, Thornham w Gravel Hole (Manchester) is to be Vicar, Christ Church, Aughton (Liverpool).

The Rev Michael Nelson, Vicar, St Mary, Biyth and Rural Dean of Bedlington is to be Rector, Hedham (Newcastle).

The Rev John Patterson, Diocesan Adviser in Pastoral Care and Counselling, and Assistant Curate, St Anne, Aigburth (Liverpool) is to be Vicar, All Saints, Great Crosby, same diocese.

The Rev Terry Pinner, Diocesan Director of Ordinands (Winchester) is to be Priest-in-Charge, Old Alresford and Bighton, and Chaplain to Old Alresford Place, same diocese.

The Rev Gillian Pocock, Dean of Esh, in plurality w

Hamsteels is to be Dean-in-Charge, Esh, in plurality w Hamsteels (Durham).

The Rev John Reakes-Wilkins, Vicar, Oswestry Holy Trinity (Lichfield) is to be Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (Church of the Province of the West Indies).

The Rev John Robinson, to be Curate, Holy Trinity, Dalton, Rotherham (Sheffield).

The Rev Michael St John-Channell, Rector, Cranford is to be Vicar, Staines, St Mary and St Peter (London).

The Rev Kevin Tones, Curate, St Peter's, Warmworth is to be Curate of Thorne, Doncaster (Sheffield).

The Rev Anne Thomas, Parish Deacon, The Lydiards, Swindon (Bristol) is to be Assistant Curate with responsibility for Woodgate Valley Local Ecumenical Project, St Michael, Baxley Green (Birmingham).

The Rev Jeffery Waring, Team Vicar, Eccles (Manchester) is to be Priest-in-Charge, Hamworthy (Salisbury).

The Rev Edward Wilkinson, Curate, Bishopwearmouth St Nicholas is to be Priest-in-Charge, Newbottle (Durham).

The Rev Bridget Woolford, recently Director of Pastoral Studies, Queen's College, Birmingham, is to be Telford Churches' Officer for Industry and Commerce (Lichfield).

Resignations and retirements
The Ven William Thomas, Archdeacon of Northumberland, diocese Newcastle, is to retire as from December 19.

The Rev Canon Peter Heath, Vicar of Glossop and Honorary Canon, Derby Cathedral is to retire as from October 18 and to be Canon Emeritus on his retirement.

The Rev Brian Nash, Team Vicar, Bucknall w Bagnall Team (Lichfield) is to retire as from October 31.

Captain Ross Northing, Church Army, Parish Evangelist, Christ the Carpenter, Dogsthorpe, Peterborough (Peterborough) is to resign as from September 30 and commence training for the priesthood.

Latest wills

Professor Peter John Murray, of Farnborough, Warwickshire, professor of the history of art, Birkbeck College, London University, left estate valued at £297,199 net.

Mr Stephen Michael Harding Oliver, of South Kensington, London, composer, left estate valued at £141,954 net. He left a number of bequests and the residue to establish the Stephen Oliver Trust for charitable purposes relating to modern opera.

Lady Peck, of Bourne, Dorset, widow of Air Marshal Sir Richard Hallam Peck, left estate valued at £2,016,079 net. She left £259,000 and effects to personal legacies, £40,000 each to the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians, half the residue to the Royal Air Force Association, Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire and a quarter each to the Cheshire Foundation and the Salvation Army.

Lady Roberts, of Knightsbridge, left estate valued at £937,717 net. Miss Nora Smith, of Llandudno, Gwynedd, left estate valued at £1,139,329 net. She left £4,500, effects and a life interest in a further £120,000 to personal legacies, £5,000 to the Conservative and Unionist Party Association, and the residue to charity.

SEPT 4 ON THIS DAY 1939

War with Germany broke out at 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, September 3, and 15 minutes later the Prime Minister broadcast to the nation from No 10 Downing Street. The national papers printed his speech in full the following day. Mr Neville Chamberlain said:

AT WAR WITH GERMANY

I am speaking to you from the Cabinet Room at 10, Downing Street. This morning the British Ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government a final Note stating that, unless we heard from them by 11 o'clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us.

I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently this country is at war with Germany. You can imagine what a bitter blow it is to me that all my long struggle to win peace has failed. Yet I cannot believe that there is anything more or anything different that I could have done and that would have been more successful.

HITLER'S FORCE POLICY
Up to the very last it would have been quite possible to have arranged a peaceful and honourable settlement between Germany and Poland, but Hitler had evidently made up his mind to attack Poland whatever happened and although he now says he put forward reasonable proposals which were rejected by the Poles, that is not a true statement.

The proposals were never shown to the Poles, nor to us, and, though they were announced in a German broadcast on Thursday night, Hitler did not wait to hear comments on them, but ordered his troops to

cross the Polish frontier. His action shows convincingly that there is no chance of expecting that this man will ever give up his practice of using force to gain his will. He can only be stopped by force.

We and France are to-day, in fulfilment of our obligations, going to the aid of Poland, who is so bravely resisting this wicked and unprovoked attack on her people. We have a clear conscience. We have done all that any country could do to establish peace. The situation in which no word given by Germany's ruler could be trusted and no people of any country could feel themselves safe has become intolerable. And now that we have resolved to finish it, I know that you will all play your part with calmness and courage.

At such a moment as this the assurances of support that we have received from the Empire are a source of profound encouragement to us.

RIGHT WILL PREVAIL
When I have finished speaking certain detailed announcements will be made on behalf of the Government. Give these your closest attention. The Government have made plans under which it will be possible to carry on the work of the nation in the days of stress and strain that may be ahead. But these plans need your help.

You may be taking your part in the fighting services or as a volunteer in one of the branches of Civil Defence. If so you will report for duty in accordance with the instructions you have received. You may be engaged in work essential to the prosecution of war for the maintenance of the life of the people — in factories, in transport, in public utility concerns, or in the supply of other necessities of life. If so, it is of vital importance that you should carry on with your jobs.

Now may God bless you all. May He defend the right. It is the evil things that we shall be fighting against — brute force, bad faith, injustice, oppression and persecution — and against them I am certain that the right will prevail.



HEALTH p5
The disease
that killed
John Keats is
returning

LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4 1992

MOTORING p6

Jaguar is 70
years old: can
it still spring
any surprises?



Golden days for limelight lawyers



The celebrated clients of Alan Dershowitz (from left) Claus von Bulow, Michael Milken, Leona Helmsley and Mia Farrow — for \$400 an hour the wealthy, notorious and well-known buy the experience of the court and television hero

Truffling like delighted pigs in the wake of every scandal come America's divorce and custody lawyers, their wallets twitching in excitement, sound-bites foaming on their lips. Out of tragedy they bring riches — usually for themselves.

As usual, Woody and Mia had hardly begun to humiliate themselves publicly before the country's two favourite talking heads were channel-hopping with their learned opinions: Alan Dershowitz (client list: Mike Tyson, Leona Helmsley, Claus von Bulow) versus Raoul Felder (client list: Mrs Mike Tyson, Mrs Martin Scorsese, Mrs Joseph Heller). The two lawyers have a great deal in common — they are both the sons of poor Jewish immigrants from Brooklyn, both became millionaires, and they are sworn enemies.

Mr Dershowitz is usually an appeals lawyer, but has been brought in to advise Mia Farrow on Woody Allen's child custody lawsuit. Mr Felder is contenting himself with advising the entire American media on the subject. Lawyers on both sides, as is traditional in a celebrity custody battle, are blaming the opposing partner for making the dispute so public. In the meantime, those television appearance fees, and the legal clients that follow in their wake, just keep rolling in.

"I guarantee you," says Mr Felder, "that I'm on television so much that three months from now, the public will think I represented either Allen or Farrow. When the media come to me for comment, it has a sort of snowball effect."

Beneath a giant blue fluorescent sign saying Sue Someone You Love, he sits in a leather armchair and explains that the step from being a lawyer to celebrities to a celebrity lawyer is a short one.

"There is some magic moment when restaurant owners start sending the free liquor over after dinner. I noticed that after I represented Robin Givens [the actress in the Tyson divorce case]. You know — you can get the best table at Le Cirque at a moment's notice. Of course it won't be long before Dershowitz has to tell maître d's who he used to be," he adds gratuitously.

Mr Felder's predictions for Mr Dershowitz are a little premature, but it is true that when the celebrity lawyer falls, he falls hard. Particularly if he is as large as Marvin Mitchelson. Remember him? He became the dean of divorce lawyers in the 1970s, when he brought the first ever "palimony" suit against actor Lee Marvin. Mitchelson lost that particular case, but his fame spread, and soon Joan Collins, Bianca Jagger and Mrs Marlon Brando signed him up. Now Mitchelson is himself before the courts, on charges of tax evasion, and a series of complaints have also been made to the Bar.

Mr Felder looks saddened. "And to think I was considering setting up bi-coastal partnership with Mitchelson — me in New York and him in California." He shakes his head wearily, well-aware that Mitchelson's present difficulties leave his way clear as the self-styled King of Divorce. A metal deskplate saying Trouble is my Business is illuminated by a shaft of afternoon sun coming into his 30th floor Madison Avenue office. A helicopter flies by the window.

At \$450 (£225) an hour (Dershowitz charges \$400) Felder is well, unbelievably rich. His firm turns over \$8 to \$10 million a year.

The only stars in America getting more media attention than Woody Allen and Mia Farrow are the attorneys hovering around their case. Kate Muir reports on the battle for top billing



Continuing tiff: it is difficult to know whether Raoul Felder (left) and Alan Dershowitz are arguing over justice and right or the best tables in New York restaurants

He has no partners, merely employees, one of whom is his wife, a Broadway dancer client turned lawyer. At 58, he now owns three apartments in New York — on Central Park, the Upper East side, and one above the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art which houses his collection of film posters and some of his 350 suits. There is also the Rolls and more than 40 cameras for his amateur photography. His office resembles a junkyard, with Rodins and Picassos scattered among china lions and plastic replicas of the American eagle.

He points out two plastic stick-on fake bullet holes, new toys which he has just affixed to his window.

"Lemme put it this way — the money doesn't mean much to me," says the attorney who even has a monogrammed doormat. "From what I see, people who inherit their wealth are anally retentive about spending it, and people who make their money aren't. You know you can earn it again." A member of the Democratic Party, he distrusts Bill Clinton, but he feels the chasm between rich and poor in America

is too wide. "It's like Dickens now. If taxing my money would get people off the street, I'd say OK, go take it — I ate provolone sandwiches when I was a kid and I'll eat them now."

Mr Felder looks back fondly on those days. Business has changed, he says, but it is the change which has made his fortune and created the man whom *Vanity Fair* dubbed "Captain Divorce". When he began 33 years ago, divorce was based on fault. Lawyers got to play private detective and trailed adulterous husbands and wives to seedy motels, where incriminating pictures were snapped. Wives got the children in almost every case, so custody was rarely disputed.

The romance and excitement has gone out of the business, but wads of money have come in. "With no-fault divorce, the lawyer was no longer the knight on the white charger. Instead, he was part of an oppressive system, grinding people under. You became sort of a fancy accountant, pencil pusher and businessman. There isn't that basic element of right and justice."

Right and justice, Mr Felder

would claim, underlie his continuing tiff with Mr Dershowitz. Others consider the dispute is in fact about who can stay in the spotlight longest. Sadly, Mr Dershowitz was off in Boston and too busy to do an interview to confirm or deny this.

Mr Felder recently wrote an article in which he said too many defendants in criminal trials were being treated as hero-figures. In this he included mafia boss John Gotti, Imelda Marcos, Washington former mayor Marion Barry and Claus von Bulow. He blamed lawyers and the media for the bad example they were setting to the young people of today.

Von Bulow, as we know, was found innocent of murder, thanks to the efforts of Mr Dershowitz. The resulting trial made a great film, *Reversal of Fortune*, in which the lawyer-hero was played by Ron Silver. Mr Dershowitz was not pleased by Mr Felder's remarks. For good measure, Mr Felder added that Mr Dershowitz's rate of success in appeal cases was not that impressive, and a ding-dong war of words ensued, ending when Mr

Dershowitz said: "I will not engage in a pissing competition with a skunk."

Clearly the celebrity lawyers are learning a thing or two from their celebrity clients.

Mr Felder does not consider he has learned from the rich; rather the opposite. "You need maturity in this game. As Kipling said: 'The colonel's lady and Julie O'Grady are sisters under the skin.'" Ivana Trump supposedly consulted Mr Felder on about challenging her post-nuptial agreement with Donald Trump. "I can't comment on that," he says, "but I thought the contract was cast iron and couldn't be challenged." Mrs Trump got herself another lawyer, but the case still failed.

"Other lawyers don't know how to handle the stars well, and then they get a Woody Allen case, where he gets all the running. Look at that case," Shakes head. "Him and Mia, they're both coconuts."

Mr Felder says that despite what the newspapers are saying, parents fighting for custody of their children do not routinely throw in accusations of child abuse to im-

prove their chances of winning. "Only 2 per cent of custody cases involve allegations of child abuse, and the unproven rate in divorce cases is no different from the unproven rate when outside agencies say there is abuse." He does, however, increasingly find that men threaten to fight for custody of their children, and then suddenly agree to drop the demands when the woman agrees to a lesser financial settlement.

With one in two American marriages ending in divorce, the custody business is expanding. So are repeat clients. Mr Felder has one woman who has used his services seven times, although she kept divorcing and remarrying the same two men. Others are on their second or third cases. Then there are pre-nuptial and post-nuptial agreements, increasingly popular with couples who have separate businesses and careers.

Mr Felder's marriage to his wife Myrna rolls on, unaffected by the mayhem around. She hardly sees him, because he is always working. He feels another quotation coming on. "As Freud said, the secret of a

happy life is leben and arbeit, love and work, but he didn't say what proportions they should be in."

Work is his obsession. He has Thacherite sleep patterns, managing only a few hours a night, and is in the office by 6am every morning, avoids lunching out, and works until 7pm or 9pm. He continues at one of his homes at the weekend. Of the 300 or so cases taken on by the firm and its nine lawyers, he deals with 60 personally and oversees major decisions on the rest. He has never taken a holiday.

He has a weekend house in glitzy East Hampton on Long Island, two or three hours away. "It's a fancy place, but I've not been there in over two years." Instead, he recently bought a condominium on downmarket Brighton Beach which is much nearer to the city. He goes there alone every Saturday to work. The condo is his equivalent of Marie-Antoinette's *petit trianon* at Versailles. He can play at being ordinary. "It's very humble, where all the new Russian immigrants have gone to live. They don't recognise me, don't bother me, so I walk on the boardwalk and sit among the Russian, the poor people, and I feel more comfortable there."

Mr Felder prefers the company of ordinary people to that of lawyers, a breed for whom he has great contempt. The American people feel much the same, rating lawyers somewhere below second-hand car salesmen, undertakers and estate agents on popularity polls.

But the one species worse than the American lawyer is the English one, according to Mr Felder. English lawyers are intellectually limited, he thinks, and use 40 Latin words where one Anglo-Saxon one would do. He suffered from them during an international case involving Peter O'Toole. "I jump out of my skin, I hit the phone against my head when I have to talk to an English lawyer. They don't have a jocular instinct. They're a triumph of form over substance, everyone thinks because the accent sounds wonderful that they're saying something intelligent." He looks over for confirmation. "A lot of English people are very stupid, particularly those ones with the egg in their mouth and the fancy accent." By egg, he may mean plum.

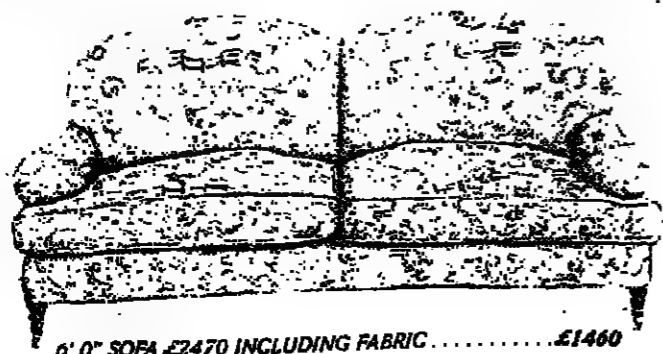
Without pausing for breath, he returns his abuse closer to home.

"Basically, American lawyers are one-dimensional in terms of intellect. That's why they're boring, and most boring you don't want to have dinner with. All they talk about is cases."

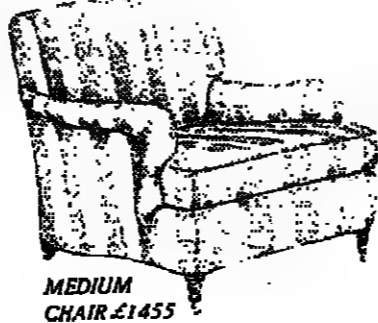
To show his grasp of the whole world, Mr Felder not only indicates various plaques commemorating his donations to charity and his Defender of Israel award from Yitzhak Shamir, but he also spatters his conversation with literary quotations (and misquotations). In the course of one and a half hours — worth nearly \$700 in divorce consultation terms — he quotes, in this order, Dr Johnson, Hitler, Fitzgerald, Churchill, Dickens, Eliot, Shakespeare, Eliot on Shakespeare, Freud and Kipling.

There is one quotation, however, which is not mentioned, and Mr Felder and his colleague Mr Dershowitz would do well to take note of it. "I do not care to speak ill of any man behind his back," said Samuel Johnson, "but I believe the gentleman is an attorney."

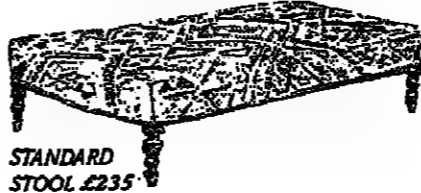
● Valerie Grove is on holiday.



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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

THE SCOTTISH VIRTUOSOS: The last day of the festival brings the culmination of a pathos of sorts: the development of Scottish music through the centuries. Saturday's concert is given by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. The programme of 17th and 20th-century music includes Thea Musgrave's 1971 Horn Concerto (with Barry Llewellyn on horn) and the Scottish premiere of James Macmillan's percussion concerto, *Wen, Wen, Emmanuel*, written for Evelyn Glennie (tomorrow's soloist) and first heard at the Proms last month. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Tomorrow, 8pm.

PINA BAUSCH: The international choreographer and dancer brings her company to the UK after a ten-year absence, to perform the classic chamber work *Café Müller*. Pina Bausch herself joins the six performers in an endless chain of emotional encounters set in a space strewn with empty chairs and tables. Set to a backdrop of four songs by Henry Purcell. King's Theatre, Leven Street, Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm.

THE MARRIAGE OF ANN LETTIE: The final performance in the Haymarket Theatre's production of the classic chamber work *Café Müller*. Pina Bausch herself joins the six performers in an endless chain of emotional encounters set in a space strewn with empty chairs and tables. Set to a backdrop of four songs by Henry Purcell. King's Theatre, Leven Street, Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm.

THE WOMAN DESTROYED: Diane Quirk plays Simone de Beauvoir's *Musée de l'Homme* in a new production. Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Tomorrow, 8pm.

EDINBURGH FRINGE

ACAPULCO: Steven Berkoff's swartling-fles in a Mexican hotel while waiting for a Russian film. Absorbing character studies. King's Head, 115 Upper Street, N1 1QT, 7.30pm-10.15pm. Tues-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm.

DEATH AND DANCING: The love of two androgynous, written and performed by Clare Downie (who wrote *Why is John Lennon wearing a scarf?*) with Mark Paskin. From the Edinburgh company *Staring at the Sun*. BAC, 176 Levenside Hill, Battersea, SW11 0BT, 7.30pm-10.15pm. Tues-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm.

DEATH AND THE MAELSTROM: A dramatic and psychological drama on the longing for revenge. *Deafening*, Doreen Wadsworth and Hugh Ross make up the new cast. Deafening, 118 Brougham Road, SW10 0TT, 7.30pm-10.15pm. Tues-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm.

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Galleries: Richard Cork on a retrospective of 15 years of sculpture and other works by Peter Randall-Page in Bristol

Gathering in the stone harvest

On a drizzly day around six years ago, I slithered up a footpath west of Lulworth Cove on a cliff-top walk. Despite the weather, the vastness of the sea only a short distance away soon exerted its power. And on the other side, the rolling landscape yielded three Wayside Carvings set into the grassy slope.

Although I knew that Peter Randall-Page had only just completed them, these shell forms looked as if they had been nesting in their dry-stone niches for a long time. Far from disrupting the location, each spiralling lump of Purbeck marble already seemed an integral part of the countryside.

Echoing the shapes of the tiny fossils embedded within them, they looked reassuringly intimate and sheltered compared with the exposed and dwarfing immensity all around.

Commissioned by the landowners through Common Ground's Imaginative New Milestones Project, Randall-Page's work offered an exemplary demonstration of how contemporary sculpture can appear to grow out of a rural setting. Most of the ramblers who have encountered the carvings since then probably do not think of them as "art" at all. And Randall-Page clearly savours the idea of such a fresh response. Here is a sculptor who, as well as deriving his form-language from the natural world, knows how to place a carving in the countryside with a rare sense of inevitability.

But how would he fare inside the Arncliffe Gallery, where his retrospective survey of 15 years' work has now opened? Randall-Page has concentrated on site-specific commissions rather than one-man shows since leaving Bath Academy of Art in 1977.

Doubts are allayed as soon as the first room is entered. His carvings, mostly hewn from dark, gleaming Kilkenny limestone, look quite at home as they lie on the floor or perch, somewhat expectantly, on stone or wooden bases. The largest, most notably a monumental trio of new works called *Fruit of Mythological Trees*, look as unconstrained here — inside a room with a view out onto the dockland water — as they

have done in outdoor locations. As their collective title indicates, these carvings are not intended to represent identifiable fruit. For all their swollen ripeness, they evade easy classification. A fascinating showcase of maquettes in the upstairs gallery also contains a selection of the natural objects which Randall-Page collects: bones, shells, stones, pods and cones. Since possible references to several of these forms can be fused in a single carving, his sculpture benefits from a richness of associations.

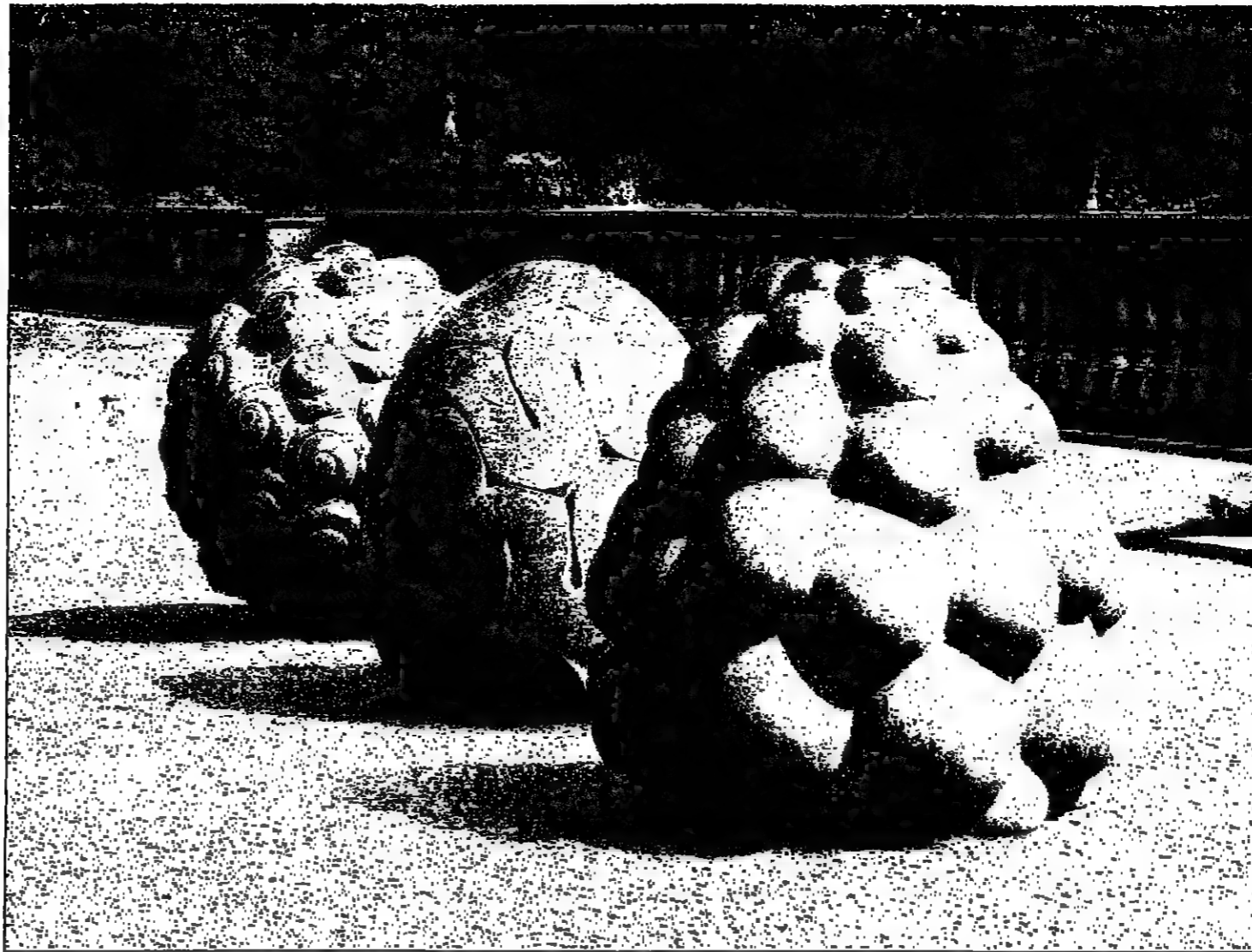
He is at his weakest when most reliant on a single, easily recognisable source, as in the *Small Cone* carved out of Cornish

Poliphant three years ago. Randall-Page seems content, here, to remain doggedly faithful to the found object he began with. The outcome is stiffly literal and predictable, whereas other works rejoice in his ability to keep us guessing.

Where *The Bee Sucks* is just such a multi-layered carving, bursting at the lower end with globular shapes redolent of fruit-clusters as well as breasts and testicles. They appear to rise in the air at the other end, but the reference here is by no means straightforwardly phallic. For this end of the limestone swarms with snake-like undulations, suggesting coiled human limbs.

Or might they be internal organs of some kind? The title of a related carving, *Beneath the Skin*, implies that Randall-Page may harbour such concerns. One half of this bunched, tense sculpture, which rests on the floor only in the middle, is alive with the same writhing forms as *Where The Bee Sucks*. They could be intestinal, but the other half thrusts upwards like a beak, the mouth of a fish or a ship's prow.

Most of his carvings are immaculately ordered, and their polished surfaces add to the air of refinement. The only rough-hewn sculpture on display is a wriggling, straining length of Hornion stone called *Himself*. Weathered by an outdoor setting and strewn with moss, it looks positively unruly set beside the highly finished works nearby. But *Himself* possesses a vigour which makes some of the smoother pieces



Looking good, outdoors or in: *Fruit of Mythological Trees*, "hewn from dark, gleaming Kilkenny limestone", by Peter Randall-Page

look too suave. Randall-Page has to guard against an over-settled aura in some of his work, bordering on the inert.

He broke free in 1985 by dispensing with carving for a moment, and modelling instead a jaunty sequence of small, micro-like bronzes. The more anarchic side of his temperament was let loose. Each little form sprouts tendrils that wave playfully in the air. They convey a feeling of elation, doubtless reflecting the sculptor's own relief at liberating himself from his obsession with weighty containment. But the mood soon passed: since then Randall-Page has moved towards a stillness and monumentality influenced above all by Brancusi.

That does not mean he has

eradicated conflict from his work. Commanding proof is offered by a colossal sequence of 12 charcoal drawings called *Fruiting Bodies*. Ranged in two rows, one above the other, these overwhelmingly assured images threaten to burst out of their confines. The paper scarcely seems able to support such robustness, but a sharp change of mood separates one set of drawings from the other.

The top row celebrates fertility in a series of plump, delectable forms. They could hardly be more opposed to the twisting tubes trapped within their own sinister contortions below.

This is the darkest side of Randall-Page's imagination, and it threatens to undermine the reassuring fecundity of his other work. But without such a troubled undertow, the

feeling for ripeness might lapse into complacency. He needs to retain this edge, and at Bristol a three-part carving called *Still Life* is given extra tension with a special installation.

Only a few minutes' walk from the Arncliffe, the ruins of the 12th-century Temple Church have become a temporary home for a work usually sited in a Basingstoke shopping centre. The blithely torn nave provides *Still Life* with a melancholy context against which the forms of a shell, chrysalis and seed strive to assert their fruitfulness. The carvings seem embroiled in an attempt to bring the whole pummeled building back to life.

Regeneration lies at the centre of Randall-Page's concerns. Many of

his drawings show a preoccupation with forms resting in shadowy, cave-like spaces. Sometimes they look shackled and helpless, but elsewhere they seem to be incubating. One day, he implies, they will hatch as spectacularly as his *Granite Song*, a carving recently placed on an island in the River Teign, Devon. For the Dartmoor boulder has been split open, as if by an unstoppable, internal force. The two halves are exposed, and the serpentine lines coursing through them offer an affirmation of vitality. Despite the misgivings he conveys elsewhere in his work, here at least the germinal principle still holds good.

● Peter Randall-Page at the Arncliffe (0272 399191) and Temple Church, Victoria Street, Bristol, until October 4

GALLERY CHOICE

● **NORFOLK PORTRAITS.** East Anglia has always had the advantage of being so near to and yet so far from London. In terms of art patronage, this meant that the local gentry had easy access to the latest from London, and often managed to hold on longer to what they had acquired. This remarkable survey of regional portraiture ranges in time and style from Hilliard to Francis Bacon, and in subject matter from royalty to gamekeepers, prime ministers to fishermen. Castle Museum, Norwich (0603 223624) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm. Tomorrow to November 29, Adm. £1.60, concs £1.20.

● **LESLIE GIBSON (1910-1969).** This year's main Salisbury Festival exhibition is devoted to a minor but interesting artist with strong local connections. Gibson spent the last 20 years of his life living in Stapleford and running with his wife, a teacher of fashion design, the Stapleford Studio. Before that he had travelled widely, and though known mainly as a landscape painter he had also painted, drawn and etched extensively in other forms, including subjects as unexpected as an on-the-spot record of a fascist meeting in Florence. Salisbury Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury (0722 332151) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun during Festival 2-5pm, tomorrow to December 5.

● **LIBERATED REALISM.** The main emphasis in this new show of the gallery's speciality, art from the former eastern bloc, shifts from artists who have stayed put to artists who have moved west. Principal among them are the Macedonian Bobby Accvski-Popo, who paints large, brightly coloured, faintly surrealistic figure compositions; the Russian husband-and-wife team Janet and Emmanuel Shtikovsky, whose poised yet whimsical pictures make great play with intricately textured paint; and the Ukrainian collageist Shimon Okshiein, who does the sort of thing the Surrealists did in the Twenties, but with a contemporary twist.

Roy Miles Gallery, 29 Bruton Street, W1 (071-495 4747) Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm, until October 7.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

THEATRE: OUT OF LONDON

Ill-met by any kind of light

One of the questions academics say we should not ask is "How many children had Lady Macbeth?" We are crissply told to restrict our attention to what lies within a play, and on no account speculate about what might have happened outside it.

The Greeks had a word for that: phooey! They speculated like mad about the families of their mythical heroes and heroines, changing the number and names of their children to suit their transient purposes. Jean Binnie follows in this tradition, quarrying Shakespeare's Scottish play to fashion one of her own.

She has not given her heroine (played by Tina Jones) the historically correct name of Gruoch. She prefers the pleasant sound of Cariona. Her lover is not the sterile Macbeth but noble Macduff, here "Duff" (Mac Andrews), inveigled into her bed to furnish an heir.

This seamy business puts a new gloss on the phrase "Lay on, Macduff!" but Binnie is not one to crack a joke. Her

Lady Macbeth
Everyman,
Cheltenham

concerns are the scandal of limited opportunities open to women to wield political power, though little is made of this, and the flimsy dilemma of the honest man torn between duty to his country and love for his bad ruler's wife.

Her characters address these matters in energetic duologues and earnest monologues around the red dais that serves as Lady M's bed. There is no laughter in this bedroom, though Jones allows herself a harsh cackle now and then. Solemnity would not matter if the drama fought out by the two combatants created characters of interest exploring the issues with rigour and verve. Flashes of verve shine through, precious little rigour and a deal of rant.

Nedie Edwards's attractive design provides a small grove of Corinthian columns, two suspended seven feet above the



Lady Macbeth (Tina Jones) and Duff (Mac Andrews)

bed. Small lanterns, like up-market miner's lamps, hang. With her black-rimmed eyes and auburn hair, Jones plays the heroine like a bimbo going blousy. She can still pose beside a column and pout, but when she tries a lascivious "Oh my darling," plainly the years have begun to tell.

This address has given good performances in the past but Cariona Macbeth is not of that number. The author supplies her with awkwardly repetitious lines and statements of feeling in place of words that communicate feelings: even so, Jones make surprisingly little of the character's envy of Macduff's fecund wife. Andrews is also a victim of the

author's belief that to show complexity it is enough to make a character keep changing his mind. He looks cross and guilty but his beloved praises his charm and knowledge of what to wear at a banquet. This does not come across at all.

The creepy witch music (by Giles Farley and Simon Turner) is a good mix of allure and desolation. But Martin Houghon's direction mistakenly trusts his actors to give life to lines that state the obvious because they lack the resources to plumb the unknown.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Jovial old soak looks a bit thin on top

Our Falstaffs have been subject to serious shrinkage of late. Last year, Prince Hal had to call Robert Stephens "a swollen parcel of droppies", "a huge bombard of sack" and a "stuffed cloak-bag of guts", when he was clearly none of those things, but a slightly overweight old codger, wistfully observing his own decay. But if Stephens erred on the slim and sober side in the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Henry IV*, what are we to say about his successor in its *Merry Wives*? Benjamin Whitrow was surely custom-designed by nature to play Shadow, whom Falstaff himself said was as likely to be hit by an enemy marksman as the edge of a penknife.

A cushion strapped to the belly, plus Frans Hals curls and a fluffy beard, cannot camouflage his thin man's nose, thin man's cheeks and, worse, thin man's tenor voice and quick, light movements. Whitrow is a fine actor, and might make something of the

The Merry Wives
of Windsor
RST, Stratford

mournful, self-disgusted Falstaff of *Henry IV Part Two*. But *The Merry Wives* demands little but physical comedy of him. The laughter comes from the creaky wooing of a cumbersome old soak, and then from his arthritic dismay as practical jokes are played on him by the women he wants to seduce. Whitrow, a spritely and graceful courtier, looks fully capable of pole-vaulting his way out of trouble.

He heads what must be one of the strongest casts recently assembled on this stage. Even the minor role of Mistress Quickly, marriage-broker and pander, is played by the formidable Barbara Jefford. Some actors, especially Anton Lesser as Ford and Ron Cook as Dr Caius, have wonderfully funny moments, too. Yet the feeling grows that David Thacker,

who directs, does not altogether trust the cast, the script, or his own production. True, *The Merry Wives* is one of Shakespeare's glibber pieces, an Elizabethan sitcom aimed at those, starting with Elizabeth I, who wanted a sequel to the jokier parts of *Henry IV*. But it could be subtler than this.

Few Elizabethan plays are more precisely located. Shakespeare gives us bourgeois and pious, its chattering wives and doleful schoolchildren. Yet Thacker opts for a look and often a style best described as Carolean cartoon. William Dudley's flimsy timbered frontages and cutely twisting staircases seem meant to suggest a cardboard toyshop kit, and the figures parading round them are hardly more real. Mostly, they come in suits or dresses of one loud hue: pink for Mistress Quickly, purple or flame for Falstaff.

This tends to encourage broad effects rather than the sly detail that has often made past productions of the play so

amusing. That is presumably why the actors who wholeheartedly embrace caricature come off best. Cook's Caius, weirdly garbed in a conical hat and a waistcoat with buttons the size and shape of carnations, gives a hilarious imitation of a venomous pixie trying to pass himself off as one, two or all of the Three Musketeers. But the performance of the evening is Lesser's Ford, a thin-lipped suburbanite inside whom the obsessed Othello is turning somersaults of rage.

John Nettles is a big, well-coming Page, toothily exuding hearty tolerance; Cheryl Campbell and Gemma Jones are bright and winsome as the merry wives, Ford and Page; but what I shall mainly remember is Lesser leaping into the basket in which he thinks Falstaff is secreted, unable in his dementia to believe he isn't hiding under a sock. But then, with Whitrow playing the part, he might have been.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

ARUNDEL FESTIVAL

On the trail of local artists

Simon Tait joins the crowd tramping through the living rooms of a historic West Sussex town in search of art

This afternoon up to a hundred strangers will wander into Sue Marsh's elegant sitting room in Arundel. This multitude, rather more than a fashionable Mayfair art gallery could hope for on a brisk afternoon, will peer at the walls, and perhaps exchange a word or two with the artist whose watercolour landscapes they will have been looking at: one Emily Ball, sitting in a chintzy armchair.

Then they may wander on, perhaps to Renée Bodimeade's house, two doors further along Maltravers Street. If they follow the map they will visit 31 Arundel addresses, mostly private homes, on the free Art Trail which is the main fringe event of the ten-day Arundel Festival.

"I suppose some people come in because they're nosy, they want to see what the house is like on the inside, and perhaps I ought to be a little nervous about security," Mrs Marsh said. "But most come because they're interested, and we provide the space because we believe in the spirituality of art and want to support young artists."

Paintings, sculpture, textiles, engraved glass and ceramics are on the trail — even lace-making, in a hairdresser's window. One parlour has a notice begging: "Please do not bring food and drink into the gallery."

Mrs Bodimeade has organised this year's trail, with Oliver Hawkins, an art lecturer and sculptor. "It's not necessarily good art," she said. "Anyone who wants to be in it can be. But the object is to give contemporary artists a showing, and the standard is surprisingly high."

Her three sons, all successful artists, have exhibited each year. Nick, the eldest, lives in Oxford where he organised a studio trail for the Oxford Art Festival.

"This is better," he said, in his mother's front room where his own paintings are on



Family business: Renée Bodimeade and her three artist sons, Miles, Matt and Nick

show. "It's a simpler route with more cohesion, and it's less self-conscious so that visitors feel more comfortable. The buyers are more often local people than not."

Last year, said Oliver Hawkins, they decided to invite a successful artist to show and Albert Irvin put on an exhibition. "The other artists were greatly backed by having someone like him, but the visitors made no distinction. They liked his work, but assumed he was another local artist, so this year we haven't bothered with guests."

Ann Sutton is a textile weaver, lecturer and author, and Venue 6 is her studio, with its electronic loom and her own latest work on display. She started the trail four years ago. "The idea developed because there were so many decent artists living here that we thought we could make a trail just by opening our studios," she says.

That there is an arts festival at all in this Sussex market town, living in the benevolent shadow of the Duke of Norfolk and his castle, may seem

strange. It began 15 years ago when the actor Patrick Ryecart suggested to his father-in-law, the Duke, that the Queen's silver jubilee could be celebrated with an open-air theatre event. Judith Buckland, wife of the then chief executive of the local council, organised it, became the director of subsequent festivals and is chairman this year.

What is odd, she said, is for a town of 3,000 inhabitants to have an arts festival that attracts 20,000 people. "But we know we have to be ambitious if we are to survive." Older festivals in the region, such as Brighton's, Glyndebourne's or Petworth's, dictate the time of year Arundel's has to be. It has to compete for press coverage with Edinburgh and the Proms and usually loses.

Last week a report by the Policy Studies Institute showed that Britain at present has an astonishing 557 festivals. Not all will survive the recession and the pinch on local authority finances. Those

run by amateurs were described as the most at risk.

But the Arundel festival has signified its optimism by appointing the conductor Graeme Jenkins as artistic director for at least three years. The appointment, which he acknowledges as "extremely brave of them", is an indication of how the festival board intends to guide the event. "We know that our local authority grant may disappear in the next three years," one board member said. "Being prepared for that means having sponsors in place not only to maintain what we've got but to enhance it with new things."

The presence of the Art Trail is welcomed by the festival. "It shows that there is personal commitment to the arts among the inhabitants, and it reinforces our belief that Arundel is right for the festival and the festival is right for Arundel," said Mrs Buckland.

The Arundel Festival (0903 883474) runs until Sunday. Arundel can be reached from London via Network South East trains from Victoria

If you're white it's all right

Not just anybody can be an au pair, as a Swedish man discovered last week. But the rules are not only sexist, they could also be racist. Peter Barnard investigates

According to old jokes told by old comedians, an au pair is a tall Swedish blonde female who is "comink to Britain for learning English". She is indolent at every angle except the horizontal, in which position she is an insatiable athlete with an alarming appetite for British men, who may include a member of the host household. In this way are the fine old French term au pair and the fine old English term co-responder separated by no more than a duvet cover.

This image is of course an outrageous slur, which would be the end of the matter were such stereotyping confined to unreconstructed comedians. But if a sexist, racist attitude to au pairs happens to pervade the Home Office and the Foreign Office, where such jokes as circulate tend to be more obnoxious, then something serious is afoot.

The case of the male Swedish au pair Johan Egelstedt, 19, who was nearly deported this week for being of the "wrong" gender has highlighted a most interesting problem. It appears that whereas advertising for a female waitress, i.e., a waitress, is positively illegal, hiring a female au pair is positively obligatory. She also has to be of a certain age (between 17 and 27).

There is, however, a much more sensitive stipulation which was not highlighted in the Swedish case. According to the Home Office leaflet on au pairs, she "must be a national of a Western European Country, which includes Malta, Cyprus and Turkey". In the view of one large au pair agency in Britain, The Britannia Agency, this is "plain racism".

Now it happens that most nationals of Western European countries are white. Both the Foreign Office and the Home Office deny racism. Each says that au pairs come from western Europe "by tradition" which might normally be a perfectly respectable argument: that is indeed the tradition. But is it "traditional" to admit, as au pairs, girls from Czechoslovakia and Hungary? No, it is not. Yet a "Statement of Changes in the Immigration Rules (House of Commons paper No. 670)" went through Parliament last October. It allows the admission as au pairs of girls from those countries, as from last January.

The fact that they used to be communist states appears to indicate that political considerations were

taken into account when the rules were compiled. "This goes back to the 1930s," Mike Davies, information officer at Britannia, says. "The government was terrified of people getting into the country under some pretext and turning out to be spies. Then, eastern Europe became communist so that became the fear. But it is all out of date now and the system needs cleaning up."

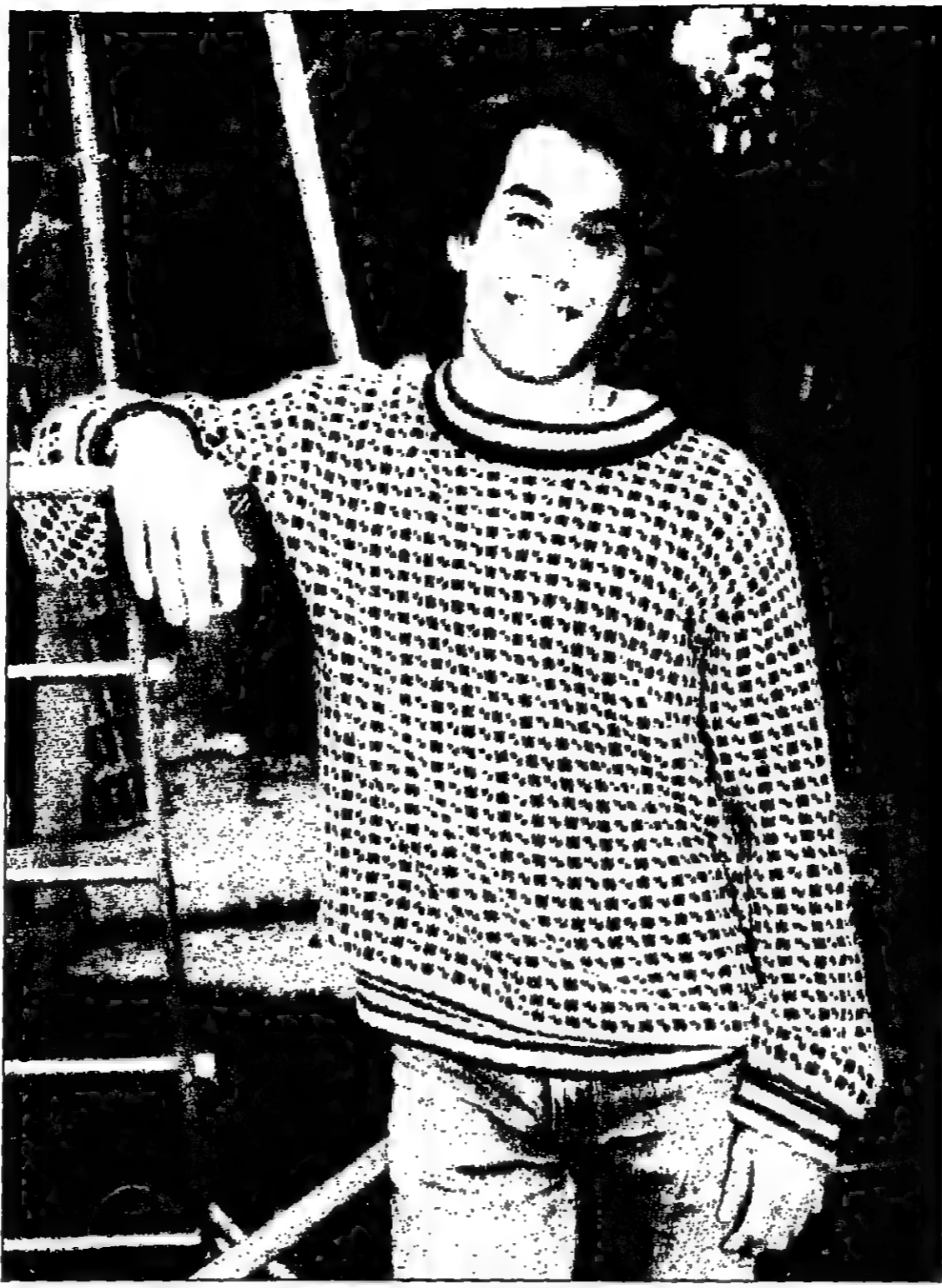
There is another arm to the official position: it discourages girls from coming to Britain from places far afield, such as South America or the Far East, because of the increased risk that they could be exploited. A girl who has travelled a long way may put up with a lot rather than face the journey back, even if she could raise the fare. There is also an implicit assumption that some employers might expect girls from outside Europe to be willing to undertake more menial tasks and work longer hours.

This argument undoubtedly has some merit, although officialdom appears to have few qualms when the traffic is in the other direction. Agencies such as Britannia send English au pairs to the United States, Canada and South America, apparently without too many of them coming to grief.

It may be that the European Community will have something to say about all of this. Josep Parigay, administrator in the EC's department covering workers and immigration policy, said: "The question of au pairs is a very delicate matter and we have been looking at some draft proposals. The question is whether or not an au pair is a worker under Article 49 of the Treaty of Rome, which covers free movement of labour. At present we simply have not decided."

The Home Office accepts that au pairs have right of entry under legislation covering all EC nationals but the dichotomy remains: is an au pair really a worker, given that Home Office rules forbid her from "working" more than five hours a day, limit her duties to certain household tasks, and stipulate that she should receive "pocket money", not a wage?

Britain and some other EC countries treat au pairs as students whose primary purpose is to learn the host language. But the agencies which bring them to Britain come under the aegis of the Department of Employment. Indeed, legitimate agencies have been pressing the department to



Who fits the bill? The case of Johan Egelstedt has highlighted questions that go far beyond gender

curb what Mr Davies calls "back street operators" that bring in girls without defining the conditions under which they are here. This often leads to them working full-time. Mr Davies says: "You get girls who find themselves being full-time child minders. There have been cases where children less than a year old have been left in the hands of au pairs while the parents work all day. That is what the government ought to be tackling; instead it wastes time trying to define au pairs by country of origin and gender. It is appalling and the impression we have is that the policy is plain racism. It is antediluvian."

There are signs of a divide in Whitehall. The Home Office is the main player and the toughest one, via its immigration and nationality department. In a letter to Britannia last December, the department said that "by tradition [the au pair system] has been a Western European arrangement". This week the department confirmed this position.

Officially, the Foreign Office takes the same line even down to using the same phrases. Lord Braham of Tara, then minister of state at the Foreign Office, wrote to Britannia in 1990 saying that the au pair system "has by long tradition been a

Western European arrangement". But the Foreign Office, which handles the cultural aspects of the au pair system, mainly through the British Council, has some officials who say privately that the rules could be more relaxed. They believe that the present system of discrimination may damage the image of Britain abroad.

And there has been some stretching of the word "tradition". In fact the restrictions on au pairs go back only to 1980, when the need for domestic servants coming to Britain from EC countries to have work permits was scrapped. There was pressure, from potential employers and some agencies, to allow in au pairs from non-EC countries, but the government, fearing that people would bring in domestic servants posing as au pairs, introduced the "Western European" rule.

Au pairs are also in the unlikely position of having a place in one of those lofty documents that goes by the name of an Helsinki Accord. This is a long-standing agreement signed by most European countries (including France, Spain and Austria but excluding Britain) and it forbids discrimination against an au pair on the

basis of gender, nationality or ethnic background. That contributes to the "delicacy" of the EC position, because if some members accept au pairs from anywhere, and some do not, consensus could be hard to achieve.

The issue may be at the heart of the review of immigration rules promised this week by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary.

No official figures are available, but agencies estimate that 10,000 au pairs come to Britain every year. Those from EC countries (which does not include Sweden) need no documentation, those from outside the EC need a letter of appointment from the host family. But even with such a letter, a girl from Brazil, for example, will probably be turned back at immigration.

The Oxford Dictionary defines au pair as someone "paid for by mutual services (no money passing)". In a sub-definition it describes au pair girl as a "young, usually foreign woman helping with housework etc in return for room and board". The conservative compilers of the OED may be forgiven for implying that all au pairs are necessarily female, but at least they leave the Home Office to inflict a dubious definition of the word "foreign".

One rule for them ...

Racial segregation has become enshrined in law in the European Commission's backyard

Talk to most people about Brussels and they think of well-heeled Europeans and conjure up vague visions of chocolates and lace. Tell this same audience, then, that in inner-city Brussels the local authorities operate laws akin to the Group Areas Act that was the backbone of apartheid in South Africa, and many may wonder if we are talking about the same place. To officials in the town hall of Forest, one of the 19 communes that constitute the local government patchwork of Brussels, racial segregation is a bit of a joke. "I mean, if a Saudi Arabian sheikh comes to us with an oil well and all that, well he can live here. We just don't want people with no money. Canadians, Americans, they're fine," an administrator in the population department says. And Moroccans and Turks who want to move here from another part of the city? Presumably they — the impoverished ones at least — are not welcome.

The practices of the communes evoke little protest because they are approved by all the main political parties leaving only the Human Rights League and other, local, anti-racist groups to object. To liberal politicians the laws of racial segregation, which are enforced in six of the 19 inner city communes, make eminent sense: they say they make it easier to control racial tension. "To compare them with the group areas acts in South Africa is nonsense," says Herman de Croo, a Flemish liberal deputy who is a close friend of Jean Gol, a francophone liberal who introduced the laws in 1985 when he was minister of justice.

Nevertheless, Article 18 of the Belgian Immigration Act — the so-called Gol law — states: "The King can, under a proposal by the minister of Justice ... prohibit, for a set period, non-EC foreigners ... from staying or living in certain communes if he judges that the growth of the foreign population in the communes is damaging to the public interest." In May, the law was extended to 1995. The extension was approved by parliament without controversy, and by a large majority. Among the Belgian authorities, cynicism over the law prevails. "This law concerns very few people," an official in the Ministry of Immigration says. "In a way it is pure demagoguery to impress the crowd."

Anti-racist groups in Brussels, such as MRAX (Movement Against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia) say that the Gol laws have encouraged ghettos. MRAX

points out that, while the numbers of North Africans moving to communes that apply the laws actually increased between 1983 and 1988 (because the Gol laws do not prevent spouses from joining partners, along with their children under 18), many immigrants are now frightened of even trying to move. MRAX has lodged many complaints about individuals turned down by communes. One man, "HK", an 82-year-old Turk moved to Belgium in 1990 to live with his son, who had been resident in Brussels since 1967 (Belgium stopped mass immigration in 1974). The commune of Schaerbeek — ironically the commune where the European Commission is situated — refused "HK" an identity card. HK is still living with his son, but without documents and he could technically be deported.

Getting communes to talk about the Gol laws is not easy. In Forest town hall, the secretary for the "population" division says he cannot talk to journalists without permission. His assistants are a little more helpful, providing photocopies of the Gol law and a record of Forest's latest debate on maintaining it.

The record of the commune debate of 14 May, 1990, notes that Forest has a "lack of money, and considers that too big a concentration of foreign nationals in areas that are already run-down could provoke racist and xenophobic reaction contrary to efforts towards integration". Forest does have a race problem: immigrants flooded in the quarter last summer after an incident in which a young Moroccan stopped by police refused to show his papers. A four-hour orgy of burning cars, pelting police and looting followed. A disco, Le Bain-Baden, which refused entry to North Africans, was also attacked.

Forest's figures show that last year there were 6,685 non-EC foreigners in the commune, or 14.5 per cent of its population, up from 13.8 per cent in 1989. That year 28 applicants were refused permission to live in the commune; in 1990 11 were refused and last year, four.

These figures could indicate that Forest is accepting more immigrants. The commune refuses to release figures for the number of applicants. It seems more likely that the declining rate of refusals indicates that, while growing, Brussels' immigrant communities are not trying to move where they are clearly not wanted.

TOM WALKER

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THE TIMES

Last of the toys for the real boys

Ugly, unglamorous and awkward to fly, the Phantom jet fighter will nevertheless be sorely missed

Did you have a smooth shave this morning? Good. For it is quite likely that, not too long ago, your sharp blade was hurtling through the sky as part of Britain's most powerful fighter jet, the F4 Phantom.

Later this month, Britain's last squadron of Phantoms will touch down at RAF Waddington, Suffolk, and taxi to their reinforced shelters. As the pilots shut down the engines, an army of mechanics will be waiting with cutting tools and wrenches to begin the task of stripping them down. Within days, the former main fighter of the Royal Air Force will be heading for the scrapheap.

Life as a razor blade seems a humiliating fate for an aeroplane which has faithfully served the RAF in the Falklands, Germany and Britain for the past 24 years. Built for the American Navy and one of the main strike aircraft during the Vietnam war, the F4 is being phased out as part of the defence cuts in the Options for Change programme.

Enthusiasts go to hell and back in their quest to restore Spitfires and other vintage aircraft to their former glory. So it seems hard to believe that a fighter which broke 15 aviation records when it first took to the air in the late 1950s is being sold for scrap for as little as £150 a tonne.

The Phantom may lack the glamour of the Tornado F3 or the Harrier, but makes up for it in sheer, raw power. Since the 1960s, aircrews have poked fun at its looks. The Americans call it "the Rhino".

To the British, it is "Doubly Ugly" and the "Toon" — as in "back end of a Phantom".

But place the Phantom on the end of the runway at RAF Waddington, fully loaded with 21,500 pounds of fuel, and who cares about appearances? Crank up the twin Rolls-Royce Spey reheated turbofan engines, release the brakes, and 25 tonnes of aluminium, titanium and steel leap away, rapidly gathering speed. Engage the reheat — or afterburner — injecting fuel directly into the hot exhaust gases in the tailpipe guttering and three or four seconds later, 40,000 pounds of thrust — the force of 60 Formula One racing cars — push the pilot and navigator back in their seats. Into the air at 160 knots, wheels up, and the Phantom soars skyward on nine-foot jets of flame.

On a typical training sortie, a crew can reach North Wales — on the other side of the country — in 20 minutes. Then it is down into the valleys, hugging the contours at 250 feet at an airspeed of 450 knots — seven-and-a-half miles a minute — as greens and browns, roads, farmhouses, rivers and dams flash below with the clear, precise motion of a speeded-up film.

Out of the Welsh valleys at 500 miles an hour and minutes later, the Phantom is back over Waddington, lining up on the runway lights.

Changes in Europe and the former Soviet Union have reached out to this corner of East Anglia. Until early last year, the base was kept in a state of "quick reaction alert", or QRA. Two Phantoms, fully armed with four Sidewinder heat-seeking missiles, four Skyflash radar-guided missiles and a six-barrel Gatling gun capable of blasting out 100 rounds a second, were housed in shelters at the end of the runway, ready to roll at the first hint of an incoming enemy. Ten minutes after the first call and the aircraft would be soaring out towards the North Sea to intercept.



F4 friends: Flight Lieutenant Glen Littlejohns (left) and Flying Officer Pete Stopforth

handed on to the Tornado F3. Thirteen Phantoms are in service at the moment.

On July 1, 56 (F) Squadron formally stood down at RAF Waddington, leaving 74 (F) Squadron, "the Tigers", in residence until the end of the month. That squadron stands down on October 1 and another chapter in the history of the RAF will be over. The 74 (F) Squadron title will be handed across to a Hawk training unit at Valley in Anglesey. Rumour has it that the Army Air Corps plans to base two regiments of helicopters at Waddington, saving the base from closure, but life for the local community will never be the same.

Waddington has been a front-line station for 53 years, from Captain Tony Alcock, the station commander, says. "The first raids of the second

world war were carried out from here against Wilhelmshaven using Blenheims. RAF Phantoms have not seen direct conflict but have been a major contributor to the policing of Germany and the Falklands.

"It is a well-loved beast: it looks like a war machine and carries a significant spectrum of weapons. The aircraft itself represents the last real man's machine. It makes a lot of noise and is very effective still despite its age."

"The Phantom has always been a war machine," Wing Commander Nick Spiller, commander of 74 (F) Squadron, says. "There's nothing delicate or pretty about it and it's difficult to fly by today's standards. You're working very hard flying it, but if you can fly it well, it's unbeatable."

The aircraft had a chance to show off its firepower over Germany in May 1982. "A Phantom shot down a Jaguar, by mistake during an exercise," says Wg Cdr Spiller. "One crew forgot they were fully armed, rolled in behind a Jaguar and fired a missile. It cut the tail off clean as a carving knife." The pilot managed to bail out.

The F4 is expensive to run. It burns as much fuel in an hour as a Boeing 757 airliner carrying 150 passengers and is difficult to maintain. But to the pilots it can do no wrong.

The Phantom is still the most powerful aircraft in the RAF, says Squadron Leader Dominic Riley, former deputy leader of the Red Arrows display team, who has logged 1,500 hours on the F4. "They were designed for a maximum life of 1,000 hours but ours have clocked an average of 5,000 hours thanks to modifications. They were planned to be flown until 2003 and to be replaced by the European Fighter Aircraft."

For a time it was hoped the Waddington F4s would end their days serving with the Greek Airforce but the deal fell through. Their passing will be marked by parades and flypasts next month.

Local residents say they will miss the roar of the Phantoms and the antics of their crew. "We'll miss the boys," says Ted Henderson, who owns The Crown Hotel in Bileston, a legendary local watering hole. "We get so used to the aeroplanes that we don't even notice them."

Perhaps most poignant for the flight crews is a letter from a local widow who writes of the Phantoms: "Their noise to me has been not a nuisance but a comfort, especially a help on sleepless nights. I'm not alone in saying 'We will miss them'."

JON ASHWORTH

Disease that came back from the dead

When 23-year-old Marilyn Brown started to feel run-down last December, it never occurred to her that she could have tuberculosis. She was losing weight and feeling constantly tired, but she put it down to her hormones because she had just had a baby.

She had a persistent cough, but when she went to her GP, he said it was an upper respiratory tract infection and gave her antibiotics. It was when she started to suffer night sweats that she began to panic, so she went back to her GP who suggested a chest X-ray. From there things happened fast.

When the X-ray revealed the tell-tale shadow of TB, the hospital rang her GP to try to contact her, but Ms Brown is not on the phone. The first sign she had of the gravity of her illness was when her mother came rushing round. "The doctor had got through to my mum and told her I was really ill. My mum came to find me and told me to go to the hospital where I had another X-ray and they kept me in."

She was shattered by the diagnosis and convinced that she was going to die. She was kept in hospital for a week and all the members of her immediate family were tested. Fortunately her baby was found to be negative, but her younger sister of 13 was positive and also had to have treatment.

Ms Brown's case illustrates some of the problems of TB. Many people think that the disease is dead and therefore do not realise that they are at risk. Consequently they delay going to the doctor and by the time they do, they are seriously ill.

Moreover, in some areas, the health professionals themselves are equally unaware of the disease. TB, first identified by Robert Koch in 1882, was declining so rapidly in the 1950s and 1960s that medical students in the 1970s saw little of it, and many doctors now assume that it went out with the high Victorian wing collars designed to hide the scars it left behind.

"I thought it had died with the plague," says Jackie Marshall, a clinical assistant in the chest clinic at the Whittington Hospital, north London. "But when I came to work here, I found it was alive and well and raging in the inner city."

Dr Marshall and her boss, Norman Johnson, a consultant chest physician, saw 56 new and follow-up cases last month, and the

Cases of tuberculosis, a disease widely thought to have been eradicated long ago, are increasing. Annabel Ferriman reports

hospital's other chest specialist has seen 29 in the last two months.

"Some cases are tragic," Dr Marshall says. "We had one woman, with a two-year-old child, admitted before Christmas who was desperately ill. Her husband had beaten her up and left her, because she had become too run-down to do the housework. We were worried that she was going to die and that her son was infected."

Luckily she recovered, and we discovered that the child had been vaccinated at birth and was therefore protected, though we are still monitoring him. "National figures show that cases of TB increased from 5,085 in 1987 to 5,504 last year, while figures up to the middle of August this year show a 4.5 per cent increase over last year. Although such totals are nothing compared with the situation in the 1940s, when the disease was known as the Great White Plague and 23,000 people a year died from it, they are still worrying. Doctors want to know why the steady fall of the post-war years, brought about by improved living conditions, effective treatment and vaccination, has halted and a resurgence begun."

In some cities in the United States, TB has become rampant, largely because people suffering from HIV and AIDS are contracting it due to their weakened immune systems (see below). Is Britain going to follow suit?

"I hope that we will not see the high rate of HIV-related cases in this country that they are seeing in the US, but perhaps I am being complacent," says John Moore-Gillon, consultant chest physician at St Bartholomew's and the Homerton Hospitals, London.

"We have a BCG vaccination programme here, which they do not have in the US, and that is a big difference."

"The evidence that HIV infection is responsible for the recent increases in the UK is not significant, because the extra cases have not been disproportionately among young and middle-aged men, which is the group with the highest incidence of HIV, but among young women and old people."

Two factors are considered important in its spread: recent influxes of immigrants and refugees from countries where it is prevalent, such as Somalia and Kurdistan, and an increase in deprivation. "We have seen a lot of people coming into the country in the last few years, often as refugees rather than immigrants, and in any mobile population there is a high incidence of the disease, because of poverty and overcrowded conditions," Dr Moore-Gillon says.

"The disease has always been strongly linked to deprivation and we have probably got more people living in poverty than a few years ago," he adds. The disease is spread by infected droplets coughed up from the lungs, so overcrowding helps its dissemination.

"But it is important that TB is not just seen as a disease of the poor and immigrant communities, because cases will be missed."

Some of Dr Moore-Gillon's patients are well-off and middle-class. One of them, Sarah Green, a 32-year-old City solicitor, first realised something was wrong when she was watching *The Barber of Seville* at the London Coliseum.

"I had such bad chest pain that I could not move," she says. "I had to be helped out of the theatre. The next morning I was immobile. I thought I must have strained some muscle at aerobics."

Doctors were perplexed by her case and it took four months to diagnose because she was in the early stages. Eventually it was confirmed by a tissue sample from the lung, and after standard treat-

ment it cleared up. But she has never travelled by underground again, because she is convinced that she caught it from the overcrowded conditions.

Despite the fact that TB has some affluent victims and is connected to such romantic figures as Keats, Browning and Balzac, it is still surrounded by taboos and shame. Women from ethnic minorities are often rendered unmarriageable by the diagnosis, while others are terrified of the isolation it can bring.

Despite the resurgence of the disease, however, it is still low on the public health agenda. As the *British Medical Journal* highlighted last week, some district health authorities are abandoning vaccination of school children, which is usually carried out between 11 and 13 and gives 70 per cent immunity, because they believe that the cost is not justified.

Many inner city hospitals have a policy of vaccinating newborn babies of mothers from ethnic minorities, but the practice has been criticised as racist by community leaders and consequently some districts, such as Hackney, east London, offer vaccination to all newborns.

Screening is also usually carried out when immigrants and refugees arrive in this country. They are examined by the port of arrival medical officer and the results are sent to the district where they are going to live.

It is an imperfect system, however, because when someone arrives they might tell the authorities they are going to settle in Hackney, intending to do so, but actually end up in Tower Hamlets, so they are not always followed up.

"Every new immigrant to the country is meant to go to their local chest clinic for an X-ray, but our TB clinic is so busy seeing new patients and contacts of people diagnosed that we are falling behind in screening new arrivals," says Dr Moore-Gillon, who has seen 50 new cases this year.

Doctors believe more research is needed into the spread of the disease; next year will see the start of a TB notification survey, to monitor who is contracting it and why.

"People should not be paranoid about the disease, but health care professionals need to keep TB in mind," says Dr Moore-Gillon. "If it is perceived as a disease of the past, doctors will miss it and people will suffer."



Frances Barber on her deathbed as the RSC's *Camille*: TB is taboo, despite its romantic associations

IN AMERICA 'FORGOTTEN' ILLNESSES THRIVE ON COMPLACENCY

Once-dead diseases are making a comeback in America. Like sequels to blockbuster films, they return in increasingly violent forms, wreaking more havoc than before.

Seven years ago, the United States had the lowest tuberculosis rate in modern history. Improvements in hygiene, nutrition and medicine ensured its steady decline and, by 1985, the number of TB patients was at an all-time low of 22,000. Yet by 1991, that number had risen 16 per cent to 25,700, and increasingly people were suffering a new — and usually fatal — strain of drug-resistant TB.

There are parallel leaps in the incidence of other controllable diseases. The number of Hepatitis B cases has doubled in five years, syphilis in ten. For every case of measles in 1985, there are now nine. The sharpest rise has been of AIDS patients, from 10,000 in 1985 to 225,000.

These are national figures, but in the poorest sections of American society, among migrant labourers, prisoners and the homeless, the TB and HIV epidemics outdo most of the developing world. How

has America, the home of state-of-the-art medicine, turned itself into a breeding ground for infectious diseases? Dr William Roper, director of the Centres for Disease Control (CDC), which monitor epidemics and fund prevention, says: "When vaccination and prevention programmes began succeeding, the country got complacent about public health. Programmes for childhood vaccinations and the prevention of tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases suffered."

The problem is that when vaccination programmes are working well, the results are invisible. It is assumed that diseases have been largely wiped out. Success meant that the CDC's budget suffered during the Reagan years until recognition of the AIDS crisis meant funding improved. By then, however, the damage was done, and half of all two-year-olds had missed out on immunisation.

Even if vaccination is available, the cost of a visit to the doctor — from \$50 to \$90 (£25 to £45) — deters many parents. The epidemics have also fed on growing drug use and homelessness, particularly hepatitis, TB and AIDS. "Intravenous drug users with frequent sex partners

and risky lifestyles not only increase the chance of disease, but increasingly mean it is passed on to children at birth," Joyce Goh, a CDC spokeswoman, says.

In the past, those most likely to get TB were the middle-aged and elderly. Now the disease's most likely victim is a young adult. In Harlem, New York, TB infection is 20 times the national rate. Worse still, almost 90 per cent of patients at Harlem Hospital failed to finish their course of antibiotics once the TB symptoms went away, leaving some of the germs dormant in their bodies. If those germs reactivate, they are resistant to some drugs.

This has meant that cases of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis have doubled in New York. City doctors now expect 5 per cent of their TB patients to die. As hospitals overflow, and patients are returned to streets, not homes, there is talk of bringing back the old institution of the sanatorium.

As the public health care system sags under the onslaught, the CDC's cry, that every dollar spent on vaccination saves \$14 in medical costs, goes unheard.

KATE MUIR

Cot death and depression

EVEN if a new mother's hormonal balance hasn't been knocked for six by a pregnancy, delivery and lactation, she has to cope with round the clock responsibility for another, helpless, human being at a time when she has been made weary by 40 weeks of pregnancy, and possibly exhausted by labour. Many people consider that the emotional turmoil which results from the hormonal changes, and the change of lifestyle occasioned by the baby's arrival mean that "baby blues", "sad day blues" and all the euphemisms used to describe the antediluvian, mild depression and occasionally disappointment felt by some mothers are inevitable. Not only is this not so but the danger is that the euphemisms can too easily be used by doctors to dismiss as unimportant the early signs and symptoms of true post-natal depression or other psychosis.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has recently called for a routine questionnaire to assess the mood of women at their post-natal examination. Support for this plea has now come from New Zealand in a



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

study published in the *Journal of Paediatric Health*. In the New Zealand survey the questionnaire advocated by the Royal College of Psychiatrists was given to 638 mothers a month after delivery, by which time any "baby blues" should have vanished. They found that overall 16.1 per cent of mothers were still depressed.

A disturbing statistic was that 45.5 per cent of the mothers whose child later became a victim of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), better known as cot death, had shown signs of depression. After allowance had been made for all the

well-known risk factors in SIDS such as smoking, the child's sleeping position, its socioeconomic and marital status of its mother, it was still found that the cot death rate in mothers who were depressed was well over three times that of those who were more cheerful.

These figures, startling as they are, relate to New Zealand, where SIDS is more common than in Britain. If statistics are certainly not evidence, the infanticide is more common than supposed but they do uncover an association between depression and SIDS. Depressed mothers will not be so alert to minor changes in their child's conduct or possibly as careful of the control of its environment. The New Zealand research should be put in perspective, as *Puff* magazine says the survey's statistics also show that women with post-natal depression could be reassured that 99.7 per cent of their babies will not die from SIDS. Conversely, doctors should take note of the association and be even more alert to post-natal depression.

Sounding out deafness

A simple though revolutionary technique for detecting deafness in unborn children has been developed at the Royal Maternity Hospital in Belfast — and has proved in tests to be 100 per cent accurate.

Before now, deafness has not been detectable antenatally. When it becomes evident at about two years through an infant's lack of response to speech or normal domestic sounds, behavioural patterns of both child and parents have become established. Two years of lost speech-based communication cannot be regained.

"Acquisition of language is essentially a passive process, through the mother's talking," says Peter Hepper, a research psychologist at Queen's University, Belfast. "She just assumes her child can hear, so will talk to it even if it is deaf. But if you know it is deaf from the outset you can get much more direct one-to-one interactions in other, principally visual ways. You teach the mother that there is no point in talking because her baby cannot hear but she can still communicate and establish a rapport by doing these other things."

The breakthrough was principally the work of Sara Shahid, a 26-year-old research fellow at Queen's University, whose results were presented at the British Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Manchester this summer. The results were a spin-off from a wider research programme in

A new technique will give early detection of hearing impairment



Early warning: Dr Sara Shahid and Dr Peter Hepper

fetal behaviour and neural development which Dr Hepper has been directing for Queen's for the past four years with grant funding from the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and, surprisingly, Nato. The defence alliance has a policy of encouraging scientific research into such non-military topics as neural development.

Dr Shahid's technique depends upon the relatively recent development of ultrasonic scanning of babies in the womb. Since expectant mothers now normally undergo at least one scan during their pregnancy, the technique can be introduced quite cheaply. She applies a computer-

generated sound by pressing a small speaker to the mother's abdomen while the reaction of the fetus is simultaneously determined by ultrasonic scan. If there is no reaction it could mean that the fetus is in the sleep-like state which wider research into fetal behaviour has shown exists. The test therefore combines both light and sound, with a cold halogen light being applied to the abdomen, too.

"We don't know precisely how it appears to the fetus, possibly as a diffused glow. But if it is awake it certainly reacts," Dr Shahid says. "If it then does not respond to sound, the certainty is that it is deaf or will have impaired hearing."

Dr Hepper's wider research programme has shown that a fetus hears from about 18 weeks — some six or seven weeks earlier than had previously been thought. So with the test done at the appropriate time, both the mother and her carers can have as much as 20 weeks' notice that a child will be deaf.

Dr Shahid has tested more than 1,000 children, now born, at Belfast's Royal Maternity Hospital where more than 3,000 are delivered annually. They were from two groups of mothers, assessed as normal, or at high risk in those cases of women with a family history of deafness, or where either parent is deaf.

Her test has provided an accuracy of 100 per cent in predicting both deafness or normal hearing. "All babies who responded to both sound and light in the womb proved to have normal hearing; those who responded only to light but not to sound proved, post-natally, to be deaf," she says. Deafness was diagnosed in 1.8 per cent of the babies tested. Northern Ireland does not have an unusual incidence of impaired hearing.

"Using this technique is really only a matter of training people using ultrasound to watch for the appropriate reactions when they apply sound and light," Dr Hepper says.

ROBERT R. RODWELL

Bush's middle course

THE startling headline "Is President Bush brain damaged?" in the American journal *New Republic* and the *London Evening Standard* seems to have been answered by his speech at the Republican Party rally when he was back on his old form. However the president is now in his late sixties and has aged all too obviously in his four years at the White House where he has suffered from thyrotoxicosis with cardiac complications.

The president's variable performance is perhaps no more than an indication of the difficulty experienced in controlling thyroid function once an over-active thyroid has been wholly, or partially destroyed, whether by surgery, chemotherapy or radioactive isotopes. The truth is that the president's mood is now controlled by pills prescribed by

his doctor. A little bit too much and the president will risk overactivity and possibly further heart trouble; too little and he will become apathetic.

Americans will in future be better informed on the state of their president's health as the *New England Journal of Medicine* has recently reviewed the problems an over-active thyroid can cause the heart. Atrial fibrillation — rapid irregular heartbeat — is a complication from which the president has suffered and which can give rise to a stroke.

This complication is up to 40 times more common in patients with thyrotoxicosis as in the general population, and 13 per cent of patients who are fibrillating are, after investigation, found to have an overactive thyroid. Thyrotoxicosis can also be the cause of previously unexplained con-



gestive cardiac failure, and may uncover, or exacerbate, existing angina. In the president's case, as in 50 per cent of cases of thyrotoxicosis in the elderly, the disease was only detected as a result of the symptoms it produced — there was no change in appearance.

Rash appearances in the Balkans

THE Department of Health advises pensioners to fill their retirement with activity, and Sir Donald Acheson, the government's former chief medical officer, is doing just that, exchanging a desk in Whitehall for the Balkan battlefields.

Sir Donald said this week that scabies was among the epidemics which was already sweeping the area. Scabies is caused by a small mite which burrows into the skin, thereby setting up an intense irritation. There is often secondary infection and a widespread eczematous rash. Scabies is spread by skin-to-skin contact. It was first described in 1687

and has been associated with warfare. Previous epidemics have peaked in 1918 and 1945. War cannot be the whole story as these epidemics started before 1914 and 1939 respectively and affected countries not involved.

Scabies does not only affect the dirty but occurs wherever there is close skin-to-skin contact and is therefore readily spread throughout families, or groups of strangers huddling together for warmth and emotional comfort. It has been suggested that even in times of peace it is more common in girls' schools than boys' schools as girls are much more

likely to hold hands in the playground than boys. Scabies is also frequently passed on during sexual intercourse, so frequently that in the army it used to be considered as inevitably sexually transmitted unless the sufferer was above the rank of major.

The mite burrows into the skin so that even when killed by one of the many scabicides available the irritation continues for weeks. The cream should always be applied when the patient is warm and the skin pores are open. The whole family, or community in the case of overcrowded refugees, will need treatment.

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Kevin Eason

celebrates 70 years
of Jaguar but
wonders if it can
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- The first sidecars cost £28 a pair, the first SS Jaguar in 1935 only £385, half the price of its competitors.
- In 1935 Lyons decided Swallow would sell a range of motor cars Jaguar from a list of animals.
- An XJ120 was the first car to run seven days and nights at 100mph.
- In 1951, Jaguar scored the first of five Le Mans wins.
- During the second world war, Jaguar made components for warplanes.
- For 40 years, Jaguar used the same XK six-cylinder engine.
- Probably the most famous Jaguar is the E-Type.
- The longest-serving Jaguar the XK was introduced in 1975.
- The first SS Jaguar used engines from Standard cars. A tuning expert who surveyed the fledgling SS90 sports car told Lyons: "Your car reminds me of an overworked lady with no bra." There's nothing under the hood.

In the worst scenario, Jaguar will be much like any other executive car. At best, Jaguar will live on and Ford might yet spring surprise and allow the production of more Big Cats to chug.



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BBC1

- 6.00** Cee-fax (74704) **6.30** Breakfast News (78244655)
9.05 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (7750181) **9.25** Ippo Fecto.
 The influence of other cultures on our own (7342471)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4900075) **10.05** Playdays (7)
 (5712013) **10.25** Double Dare. Slapstick game show (7)
 (1057655) **10.45** The O-Zone. Pop music magazine (7882891)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (8478891) **11.05** The Flying
 Doctors. Drama series set in the Australian outback (7). (Cee-fax)
 (3182075) **11.50** The History Man. Bryan McInerney visits
 a medieval castle, thought by some to be the site of King Arthur's
 Camelot (5644758)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (7477636) **12.05** Summer
 Scene. Entertainment magazine (2592278) **12.55** Regional
 News and weather (96910146)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Cee-fax) Weather (53926)
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) (43448297) **1.50** Eldorado (7). (Cee-fax)
 (4517234)
2.00 Film: *Ensign Pulver* (1964) starring Robert Walker and Walter
 Matthau. Comedy sequel to the popular *Mr. Roberts*, about the
 misadventures of a lowly ensign on a US Navy cargo ship who
 turns the tables on his tyrannical captain (Burt Reynolds). Directed by
 Joshua Logan (312891)
4.00 *Barney Ruler*. Cartoon (7) (6929487) **4.10** The All New Popeye
 Show (7) (6807297) **4.35** Maf Maf and Her Merry Men. The
 fourth of Tony Robinson's six-part role-reversal comedy (7).
 (Cee-fax) (8046568)
5.00 Newsround (3070988) **5.10** Byker Grove. Children's drama
 series (7). (Cee-fax) (3729520)
5.35 Neighbours (7). (Cee-fax) (6523810). Northern Ireland: Inside
 Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Cee-fax)
 Weather (839)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (891). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Eldorado. (Cee-fax) (43455)
7.30 Bread. Carla Lane's comedy series about a workshy Liverpool
 family (7). (Cee-fax) (425)
8.00 Birds of a Feather. The sisters fall out this week when Sharon
 becomes manager of the local restaurant and Tracy is hired as the
 washer-up (7). (Cee-fax) (3013)
8.30 Joker in the Pack. Martin Caine presents the last in the series
 featuring amateur comedians. (Cee-fax) (52520)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Barker. (Cee-fax) Regional news
 and weather (2742)



Something rotten: Neil Pearson (centre) investigates (9.30pm)

- 9.30** Between the Lines.
 ● CHOICE: Yet another police series, you may groan, but this 13-
 parter created by J.G. Wilsner does seem to have found a new
 angle. It is about investigations within the force and the tensions
 which arise when the police have to judge and jury in their own
 cases. Neil Pearson (of *Drop the Dead Donkey*) plays Tony Clark, a
 pushy young detective hoping for promotion to the Flying Squad
 who finds himself having to root out corruption at his own station.
 The main storyline, about officers taking kick-backs from laundered
 drugs money, sustains a tense and exciting narrative, filmed with
 convincing realism. At the same time we have glimpses of Clark's
 life off-duty, revealing him as a womaniser enjoying an extra-
 marital affair with a WPC. On the early edition between the lines
 is the best new cop show since *Jim Kelly* (Cee-fax) (7)
 (966297)
10.20 Proms On One. James Naughtie introduces the last of four
 concerts from this year's Proms. The German pianist plays Grieg's
 Piano Concerto in A minor, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra
 performs Shostakovich's satirical work *Hypocritically Murdered* (7)
 (4245907)
11.30 Film: *Lisa and the Devil* (1976) starring Telly Savalas, Elke
 Sommer and Robert Alda. A muddled concoction of devil worship
 and exorcism, set in a mysterious house in a Spanish town, where a
 tourist finds herself at the mercy of a distinctly odd family. Directed
 by Mario Bava (155029) **1.05am** Weather (8980308)

BBC2

- 6.45** Open University: *Art - King Cotton's Palace* (6287520). Ends at
 7.10. **8.00** Breakfast News (9574162)
8.15 *Britain by the Bug*. The mating rituals of insects (7) (9597013) **8.30**
 The Italians. A profile of model Mirella D'Angelo (7) (36810)
9.00 Protecting the Park. The problems faced by local councils trying
 to protect the Peak District national park (7) (27162)
9.30 Film: *Brewster's Millions* (1945, b/w) starring Dennis O'Keefe.
 Comedy about a GI who returns home after the war to discover
 that he has inherited eight million dollars - on condition that he
 spends more than one million in two months. Re-made in 1985
 starring Richard Pryor. Directed by Allan Dwan (3028094)
10.50 Film: *Obsession* (1948, b/w) starring Robert Newton and Sally
 Gray. A vengeful doctor plans the perfect murder. Directed by
 Edward Dmytryk (40941181)
12.25 The History Man. The story of the Border Reivers (7) (7487013)
12.30 Black Napoleon. A documentary about Toussaint L'Ouverture,
 a former slave who, in 1804, helped Haiti to become the first black
 republic (7) (5511925) **1.20** Postman Pat (7) (6950075) **1.35**
 Weekends. Outlook (7) (78056487) **1.40** In the Making.
 Landscape painter Robert Bates (7) (43420891)
2.00 News and weather (34532181) **2.05** Mini Dragons. A profile of
 Singapore (5662433) **2.55** The History Man. Bryan McInerney
 visits Hedingham Abbey (7) (9073487)
3.00 News and weather (4984891) **3.05** All Our Children. Comparing
 primary school life in Britain, the Netherlands, Colombia, Zambia
 and Australia (8052758) **3.30** News and weather (8358891)
4.00 Film: *Only the Valiant* (1951, b/w) starring Gregory Peck. A US
 Cavalry Apache drama directed by Gordon Douglas (48890520)
5.40 Look Stranger. A portrait of novelist Elia Williams (7) (50743)
6.00 Film: *The Paleface* (1948).
 ● CHOICE: Like Marilyn Monroe, Jane Russell was launched in films
 on the basis of her generous but modest and demure personality
 that she was more than a sex bomb. *The Paleface*, her third film
 after her notoriously publicised debut in *The Outlaw*, found her
 felicitously teamed with Bob Hope in a spoof western based on that
 time-honoured plot about bad men smuggling gold to the Indians.
 Russell is Calamity Jane and Bob Hope a cowardly dentist called
 'Painkiller' Peter Fister. Apart from losing the constitutional
 'Painkiller' and 'Bows', which went on to win an Oscar, the pair suffer a string
 of misadventures and get themselves captured. The director was
 Norman Z. Macdonald, a comedy specialist who also made films with
 W.C. Fields and the Marx brothers. The stars returned for a sequel,
Son of Paleface, in 1952 (73075)
7.30 Gardeners' World presented by Geoff Hamilton (617)
8.00 East: *Women of the Koran*.
 ● CHOICE: George Alagiah reports from Pakistan on the disturbing
 practice of Koranic 'marriages'. The bride turns up on her
 wedding day, wearing a special dress and jewellery and with
 relatives assembled, but there is no groom. She is instructed to put
 her hand on the Koran, the Islamic holy book, and instead of
 enjoying a family life with husband and children is condemned to
 spinsterhood. Defenders of the practice, which is common among
 wealthy feudal families in southern Pakistan, claim religious
 backing. But the real motive is more basic, to avoid having to
 reduce the family property by giving the daughter a share. One
 Koranic bride (not identified by her real name) says bitterly: 'I wish
 I'd been born when the Arabs buried their daughters alive. Even
 that would have been better than this torture.' (1955)
8.30 International Athletics. Action from the IAAF World grand prix
 final in Turin (7684636)
9.40 Signs of the Times: *They're Not Holding the Ceiling Up*. The
 series on taste continues with a look at British home dwellers who
 choose to live with fake furnishings (7) (239655)
10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (153181) **11.15** What The Papers
 Say presented by Isobel Hilton of *The Independent* (149538)



Ringling bells: Mike Oldfield returns to Edinburgh (11.30pm)

- 11.30** Edinburgh Nights: *Tubular Bells II*. The premiere of Mike
 Oldfield's rewritten version of his 1970s hit (7) (983907)
12.35am Weather (8980308)

ITV

- 6.00** TV-am (5027075)
9.25 The White Seal. Animated tale based on Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle*
 Book story (7) (6630742) **9.50** Thames News (7192452)
9.55 Film: *Freaky Friday* (1976) starring Barbara Harris and Jodie
 Foster. Disney family fantasy about a mother and daughter who
 change roles for the day, actually taking over each other's bodies.
 Directed by Gary Nelson (61227988)
11.50 Thames News headlines (4215655) **11.55** Cartoon Time
 (5556549) **12.10** Rainbow. Educational fun for the under-fives (7)
 (5235742)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Fiona Armstrong.
 (Oracle) Weather (2203471) **1.05** Thames News (69525384)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (840549) **1.45**
 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian
 outback (7) (832520)
2.15 Highway To Heaven. Jonathan, the earthbound angel, and his
 human helper Mark, come to the aid of a family whose lives revolve
 around their totally incapacitated son (6432810)
3.10 ITN News headlines (4902297) **3.15** Thames News headlines
 (4901568) **3.20** The Young Doctors. Drama series set in a large
 Australian city hospital (3007810)
3.50 The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin. Animated adventures (7)
 (5583278) **4.15** Cartoon Time (7) (6838910) **4.25** Art Attack.
 Children's painting series (7) (5051920) **5.05** Cartoon Time (3097655)
5.15 LWT News presented by Anna Maria Asch. Weather (3826487)
5.45 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather
 (607487)
6.00 Home and Away (7). (Oracle) (463891)
6.25 On the Buses. Comedy series set in a bus garage. Starring Reg
 Varney and Doris Hare (7) (769759)
7.00 Family Fortunes. Game show for families, presented by Les
 Dennis. (Oracle) (5) (9433)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (471)
8.00 You Bet! The first of a new series of celebrity challenges and
 forfeits, presented by Matthew Kelly (6) (6297)



A perfect couple: D.W. Moffett and Tracy Pollan (9.00pm)

- 9.00** Fine Things. Episode one of a four-part mini-series based on
 a novel by Danielle Steel about an emotionally unfulfilled
 businessman who eventually finds love in the shape of an attractive
 divorcee. Their initial happiness turns to stress when the wife is
 struck down by cancer after the birth of their first child. His struggle
 to keep the family together is made more complicated by the arrival
 of his wife's jilted former husband. Starring D.W. Moffett and
 Tracy Pollan. Continues after the news. (Oracle) (6433)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Stewart and John Suchet. (Oracle)
 Weather (639461) **10.35** LWT News (674907)
10.40 Things continued (3061618)
11.40 The Young Riders. Western adventures about Pony Express riders
 (202181)
12.35 Rescue 911. William Shatner introduces more real-life dramas
 involving the American emergency services (5740476)
1.35 American Gladiators. Tests of strength and strategy (7) (516544)
2.40 CinemaAttractions. News from Hollywood, presented by Charlie
 Tuna (9912969)
3.15 *Raw Power*. Rock music magazine (437501)
4.15 *Out of Limits*. Men and women test their skills to the limit
 (66689196)
4.35 *Burke's Law* (b/w). Classic Beverly Hills detective series starring
 Gene Barry as the well-heeled police captain, in this episode
 investigating the death of a model and nightclub photographer
 (8016056)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (93056). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** The Channel Four Daily (5025617)
9.25 Radar Men from the Moon (b/w). Classic science fiction
 adventures (6728346)
9.40 Footrot. Animated adventures of a stray dog (6629461)
9.55 Get Smart. Spoof spy series starring Don Adams (9292433)
10.25 Film: *Palmy Days* (1931, b/w). Musical comedy starring Eddie
 Cantor as a sham spiritualist's stooge who has a change of heart
 when he falls for the daughter of the man his boss is trying to
 swindle. Directed by A. Edward Sutherland (2227094)
11.45 Sleeping Beauty. Animated version of the classic fairy tale (7)
 (7251839)
12.00 The Prodigious Hickety. Episode two of a three-part drama set in
 an American boys' school at the turn-of-the-century (7) (63452)
1.00 Sesame Street. Early learning series (7) (72100)
2.00 I Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage American domestic comedy starring
 Lucille Ball (5487)
2.30 Racing from Kempton Park. Derek Thompson introduces live
 coverage of the 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races (98742)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley with another round of the words
 and numbers game (384)
5.00 Traveller's Tales. Michael Wood explores India's sacred city,
 Benares, and the countryside surrounding it (7). (Teletext) (6346)
6.00 Blossom. Comedy series about a teenage girl living in an otherwise
 all-male Los Angeles household (7) (543)
6.30 Happy Days. Harvey Krimler stars as the super-cool Fonzie in the
 series set in 1950s Milwaukee. (Teletext) (29)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Fiona Murch. (Teletext)
 Weather (261471)
7.50 First Reaction. On the eve of the launch of the Ford Probe, a look
 at how cars get their names (7) (45472)
8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (5)
 (6723)
8.30 In With Mavis. Mavis Nicholson's series of revised repeats of her
 Third Wave series concludes with a profile of Sir Yehudi Menuhin.
 (Teletext) (8758)
9.00 Garden Club. Series that visits private gardens and allotments all
 over the country. (Teletext) (5452)
9.30 Chom. More comedy concerning the staff and customers of the
 popular Boston bar. In this episode Sam and Diane have their love
 life disturbed by a lonely man (64181)
10.00 Nurses. Comedy/drama series set in a Miami hospital (33723)



A good laugh in Montreal: introduced by Ben Elton (10.30pm)

- 10.30** Just For Laughs Special. Highlights from Montreal's international
 comedy festival, introduced by Ben Elton (7) (65620)
12.30am The Secret Policeman's Third Ball. The concert held in 1987
 at the London Palladium in aid of Amnesty International. Among
 those taking part are John Cleese, Robbie Coltrane, Fry and Laurie,
 Joan Armatrading and Chet Atkins (7) (5) (27143)
2.15 The Twilight Zone: *The Mind and the Matter* (b/w). Another
 tale of the supernatural (5562747). Ends at 2.40

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes™ numbers,
 which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™
 remote control. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for
 the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0883 121204 (costs
 40p per minute plus 30p per call) or write to VideoPlus, c/o BBC, 1 Wood Lane,
 Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7NH. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

SATellite

- SKY ONE**
 ● Via the Astra and Marconi satellites
 6.00am Sky One (14346) **6.30** Mrs Pappagallo
 (2417159) **6.45** Playhouse (1626181) **7.00**
 The Di Kit Show (891621) **7.30** The Prime
 Game (76033) **10.00** The Big M. A Day
 (67658) **10.30** The Bold and the Beautiful
 (163630) **11.00** The Young and the Restless
 (752021) **12.00** 52 Below (94346) **1.00pm**
 5 Street (58836) **1.30** General Hospital (7230)
 Another World (271539) **3.15** The Brady
 Bunch (46258) **3.45** The Day After Tomorrow
 (140278) **5.00** The Facts of Life (7471) **5.30**
 Different Strokes (7704) **6.00** Baby Talk
 (44171) **6.30** Street (8297) **7.00** Alf (4007)
7.30 Candid Camera (7181) **8.00** The Flash
 (43459) **8.30** WWF Superstars of Wrestling
 (37079) **10.00** Stunt (10467) **10.30** Police
 Story (64389) **11.30** The Double Life
 of Henry Phyllis (62839) **12.00** Pages from
 History

SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Marconi satellites
 News at the hour. 6.00am Sunday
 (959401) **9.30** Countrywide (76015) **10.00**
 Dayline (65297) **10.30** Memories (70278)
 Today (800705) **11.40** Business Report
 (582581) **12.30pm** Good Morning America
 (60920) **1.30** Good Morning America
 (17549) **2.30** Nightline (92039) **3.30** Country-
 wide (77811) **4.30** Memories (4094) **5.00**
 Live at Five (72487) **6.30** Nightline (90687)
7.30 Memories (5723) **9.30** Memories
 (93617) **10.30** Nightline (75181) **11.30** ABC
 News (74331) **12.30** Memories (69560) **1.30**
 ABC News (65476) **2.30** Countrywide
 (46378) **3.30** ABC News (44124) **4.30**
 Sky Movies+ (97975) **5.30** Sunrise (22382)

- Via the Astra and Marconi satellites
 6.00am Sky One (14346) **6.30** Mrs Pappagallo
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 The Di Kit Show (891621) **7.30** The Prime
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 Story (64389) **11.30** The Double Life
 of Henry Phyllis (62839) **12.00** Pages from
 History

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- Via the Astra and Marconi satellites
 6.15am The Man Who Could Cheat
 Death (1959) A scholar discovers a way to
 prolong life (4767742)
9.00 *Det and the Koolhaas* An Australian get
 and a bear case (4551451)
12.00 *Midnight in Moscow* (1962) A
 prisoner becomes a broadcaster (7122638)
11.50 *San Francisco* (1936) A boy grows up
 and Tracy in a romantic drama (5385007)
1.00pm *Children of the Bride* (1950) An
 orphaned mother's younger man (701758)
3.30 *FLST* (1978) Skatone and Sanger in
 the story of a union boss (4974182)
6.05 *Mr & Mrs Bridge* (1990) Paul
 Newman and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer play
 a couple growing old (40475891)
8.15 *Crater* (1985) Peter O'Toole tries to
 conquer his dead wife (5451451)
10.10 *Fatal Exposure* (1991) A mother
 becomes the target of an assassin (679955)
11.45 *Sunny Boy* (1988) A boy brought up
 by a psychotic is used as a killer (328704)
12.50am *The Killing Place* (1990) A boy
 dreams the truth about parents (4551451)
3.05 *Pulp* (1972) Michael Caine gets
 entangled with gangsters (523216)
6.00pm *Prey for the Night* (1970) A girl
 takes a husband against his will (301951) Ends
 at 6.00am

THE COMEDY CHANNEL

- Via the Astra and Marconi satellites
4.00pm *Ed* (7421) **4.30** *Funny Brewster*
 (6026) **5.00** *Grease* (9013) **5.30** *Lucy*
 (6278) **6.00** *Memories* (6991) **6.30** *The*
 Company (8641) **7.00** *Designing Women*
 (5549) **7.30** *McIntire* (7501) **8.00** *McIntire*
 Secret Video (5297) **8.30** *Vivings* (4041) **9.00**

RADIO 1

- Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno Brookes
 with The Early Show (FM only) **6.30** Simon
 Mayo **8.00** Simon Bates **11.00** Radio 1 FM
 Roadshow with Gary Davies from Weston-super-Mare **12.45** John
 Brambles **3.00** Steve Wright in the Afternoon **6.00** John Peel **7.00** Pete Tong's
 Essential Selection includes the Midweek Dance Chart and Club
 Country **9.00** Friday Road Show with Tommy Vance **11.00** John Peel (FM only after midnight)
12.00 4.00am Paul McCartney (FM only)

RADIO 2

- Stereo and MW. 4.00am Alex Lester: The Early
 Show **6.15** *Pause for Thought* **6.30** Brian
 Naylor: Good Morning UK **8.15** *Pause for*
 Thought **9.00** *Pause for Thought* **10.10** *Pause for*
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TODAY IN BUSINESS

WILLIS WILL



Norman Willis is again facing calls to quit on the eve of the TUC's annual conference in Blackpool but insists he is staying page 19

HOME VIEW

Reckitt & Colman says it will continue to invest in new household products and strengthen its brands despite the recession page 17

AWAY VIEW

T&N

T&N, the car parts group, is considering three acquisitions in Germany after a sharp recovery in half year profits page 17

DOUBLE UP

Doubled profits at Coulson prove the group is recovering from its crash in 1990. The shares are rated a hold Tempus, page 16

TOMORROW



Tim Waterstone threw a "personal party" for 470 people from the literary world this week. Debra Isaac writes a chapter on the bookseller's life

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9805 (-0.0231)
German mark 2.7975 (+0.0115)
Exchange index 92.2 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1741.0 (+58.2)
FT-SE 100 2381.9 (+68.9)
New York Dow Jones 3312.19 (+21.88)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 18386.49 (+798.77)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%
3-month interbank 10%
3-month eligible bills 9%
US: Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 3%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.15-3.14%
30-year bonds 96%
New York: 3-month 3.15-3.14%
30-year 96%

CURRENCIES

London: £/\$ 1.9805
£/DM 2.7975
£/Sfr 2.5019
£/FF 16.6362
£/Yen 160.36
£/Index 92.2
ECU: £/SDR 1.376424
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London: AM \$339.05 PM \$338.85
Close \$341.30 \$341.80
£/12 50-173 00
New York: COMEX \$ 342.05-342.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.10/bbl (\$20.15)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.8 July (1987=100)
* Denotes monthly trading price

Extra £7.25bn funding surprises City

Bank prop for pound sends shares soaring

BY MICHAEL CLARK AND COLIN NARBROUGH

SHARE prices and government securities responded enthusiastically to the innovative measure to support the ailing pound, with the stock market posting its biggest one-day rise since April's general election.

News that the Bank of England was borrowing £7.25 billion in euros, consisting of various foreign currencies, to help prop up the pound in the run-up to the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty cheered City investors.

Economists said the move effectively ruled out the prospect of the pound being devalued and eased some pressure for a rise in interest rates.

More than £12 billion was added to the value of shares, as the FT-SE 100 soared more than 70 points. The index eventually closed 68.9 up at 2,381.9 in volatile trading, which saw 551 million shares change hands.

The move by the government to reinforce its defences for the pound took the City by surprise.

A Treasury announcement, issued at 3pm, said the government intended to borrow the equivalent in foreign currencies of 10 billion euros (£7.25 billion) to buy pounds in the foreign exchange markets on top of normal intervention. The Treasury stated explicitly that all the funds would be deployed in the current fiscal year, which ends in March. Although the Treasury made clear that the prime

purpose of the record currency borrowing deal was to safeguard the pound within the exchange-rate mechanism, it said the move would have the secondary benefit of reducing the government borrowing requirement. The government hopes the deal will bring it the equivalent of about two to three months of gilt issues. This will enable it to stick to its forecast public sector borrowing requirement of £28 billion for the current fiscal year.

The move followed heavy intervention by the Bank of England last week to prevent the pound falling to its absolute floor within the ERM. Official figures on Wednesday revealed that underlying currency reserves dropped by \$1.23 billion in August.

As a first step, the Bank of England has arranged a 5 billion euro multi-currency revolving credit facility led by Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and National Westminster, plus 14 other British and foreign institutions. Half of three-year facility will be drawn down in marks in the "next few days", with the second half to be called on later this month.

The remaining 5 billion euros will be raised through a multi-currency note issue, which will begin in October. Details of maturities and markets will be issued later. This issue can be extended to refinance the bank credit on finer terms. The revolving credit may be drawn down in

dollars, yen, Swiss francs or euros, as well as marks. Interest will be payable at 3/32 per cent over the London interbank rate.

The pound rose sharply, ending at DM2.7975 at the official 4pm London close, up more than a penny from Wednesday and almost two pence from its lowest limit in the ERM. Later, it climbed past DM2.8000. Against the rising dollar, sterling dropped more than two cents to \$1.9805. In New York, the dollar, whose fall unleashed the latest tensions in the ERM, rallied two pence, to \$1.9805.

With the pound looking more capable of riding out any turbulence this month, market fears of a base rate increase receded.

In the stock market, double figure gains were common among leading shares, with ICI climbing 35p to £11.06, English China Clays 22p to 483p, and Glaxo 29p to 746p. Price movements were often exaggerated as the bears rushed to cover short positions with just one day of the two-week trading account left to run. Government securities also shrugged off recent worries about the pound and pressure on interest rates to post gains of up to £2 at the longer end as foreign buyers clamoured for stock.

But brokers last night feared that a reaction to the news of the government's actions may set in when business resumes this morning.

The Bundesbank council, under fierce attack in Germany this week over its tight monetary policy, yesterday left its key rates unchanged. Economists do not expect any easing of German interest rates until the independent central bank is convinced that inflationary pressure are contained.

Western Germany's gross domestic product declined by a real, seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent in the second quarter of 1992 to achieve annual growth of just 0.6 per cent.

Stock market, page 18
Comment, page 19



Screen play: a sea of blue, and even the reds improve

Rolls taps reserves for interim payout

BY GEORGE SIVALL

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero-engines and power engineering group, is to pay a maintained dividend out of reserves again. In the first half of 1992, Rolls raised pre-tax profits from £11 million to £20 million. But even before tax, this is not enough to meet the £25 million cost of the dividend.

held at 2.55p a share. Lord Tombs, who steps down as chairman this month, justified the decision, however, by emphasising the long-term nature of aero-engineering and saying the result was in line with the steady improvement in Rolls' performance expected over the next few years. In 1987, he argued that Rolls should be privatised with

a strong balance sheet, to even out the cyclical troughs in the aircraft industry. After yesterday's figures, analysts downgraded their forecasts for the full year and 1993 from about £110 million and £190 million to £80 million and £150 million, respectively. The City is pleased Rolls has an order book of £6.7 billion, with a further £800 million

due to be contracted, but now expects orders for civil aircraft spares and military aircraft to come next year rather than this. Spares orders, a source of high profit margin business to Rolls, are being pared back by airlines anxious to keep their inventories as tight as possible in the present fare price war.

Rolls faces uncertainty over the European Fighter programme but claims it will sell the engines even if EFA never takes off.

Analysts were disappointed at the impact of the weak dollar, which knocked £10 million off pre-tax profits. Lord Tombs said that if the present dollar rate persisted, he would be forced to source more work outside Britain.

NEI, the power engineering group bought in 1989, recovered from a loss of £2.4 million to a profit of £3.1 million, on sales of £490 million (£439 million). Dr Terry Harrison, NEI chairman, becomes chief executive of Rolls next month when Sir Ralph Robins replaces Lord Tombs.



Changing guard: Lord Tombs (left) will hand over to Sir Ralph Robins next month

Tempus, page 16

Embattled IBM spawns a \$7bn Baby Blue

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

IBM, the computer industry's Big Blue, has spawned a new personal computer company in a move likely to spark fresh price cuts in a market where most PC makers are already hemorrhaging and analysts forecast profit margins will virtually halve over the next two years.

The new "Baby Blue", to be called IBM Personal Computer Company, will have sales of \$7 billion and be the largest PC company in the industry. Its creation is the first part of a strategy by John Akers, the chairman, to slim the oil-tanker-sized bureaucracy with 13 businesses into a nimble

six-division corporation whose individual components are likely to be packaged ready for a flotation on Wall Street.

IBM turns up the heat later this month, promising the start of a range of models that will include a low-cost brand called PS/Valuepoint. The PC move is the first of IBM's strategy of vertical integration, which puts all the functions needed to design, build and sell a PC under one autonomous management. Previously, the different functions were spread over five.

But before any flotation, Mr Akers has to convince doubting investment analysts of the soundness of his strategy. They remain sceptical and have this year cut IBM's share price

by 20 per cent to \$87. Many still smart from the feeling of being misled 14 months ago when the company shocked Wall Street with the first of a series of bad figures and dire profit warnings.

James Cannavino, general manager of IBM's personal systems business and the man responsible for the new PC division, said: "My goal is to be where the customers want to be at the most competitive price."

Lucienne Painter, an analyst with Salomon Brothers said: "In our opinion, prices will continue to be cut savagely because of the declining cost of technology and deep discounting to win market share. We believe this year has marked the beginning of a

shakeout in the PC hardware industry."

Ms Painter estimates that within two years, gross profit margins will be cut from 40 per cent or more to between 20 per cent and 25 per cent.

IBM, which has manufacturing plants in the UK and competes with Compaq and Amstrad for the PC market, has denied that its own PC business has been losing money, but admits it has not performed as well as planned. The first line of its new products are expected next week with several models of the PS/1, based on the high velocity Intel 486 chip. Later in the autumn there will be portable models, a new look to the PS/2 desk top and the PS/Valuepoint.



Lift for Ladbroke: Cyril Steh, chairman - pictured outside the Ladbroke Hilton, London - soothed shareholders' nerves with an unchanged interim dividend and a promise that there would be no cut in the final. The group, which includes Hilton International hotels, Texas DIY stores, and betting shops, increased pre-tax profits by 5 per cent in the first half of this year, from £98.2 million to £103.2 million. The interim dividend is 4.92p (Tempus, page 16)

Yarrow blames job losses on order gap

BY KERRY GILL

YARROW Shipbuilders on the Clyde yesterday announced it was to shed more than 500 jobs because of delays in defence spending. The jobs will go by the end of the year although attempts will be made to redeploy staff. The yard, with 2,750 employees, said it hoped to find volunteers but many would have to be laid off compulsorily. The company axed 645 jobs in December and yesterday's announcement was made despite orders for five frigates this year.

Yarrow won a £400 million order for three Type 23 frigates for the Royal Navy in January but had expected the deal a year earlier. It also won a £322 million contract in January to build two frigates for Malaysia's government.

A spokesman blamed the latest job losses on a "gap" in its construction programme. "Naturally we are sorry this has come about. We do have work but we have a hole in the programme which means we cannot carry surplus labour." He said work had started on the three naval frigates and design work had begun on the Malaysian order. The contracts would maintain work at the yard until 1997.

John Cary, Clyde district secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said he was "extremely disappointed" about the job losses. He will meet management next week to discuss ways of cushioning the redundancies. "The Yarrow workforce has co-operated fully over the years to ensure it is one of

the most efficient yards in the country. The difficulty has been the lack of orders and the lack of a government policy on shipbuilding," Mr Cary said. He gave warning that there would be no volunteers for redundancy and those leaving Yarrow would have little hope of alternative jobs in the area.

Cut in loss brightens shares in Sun Alliance

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

SUN Alliance, Britain's biggest insurer and the one most exposed to mortgage indemnity losses, cut its pre-tax loss from £114 million to £97.9 million in the six months to June 30. The loss was smaller than the City had expected.

The figures were struck after losses of £108 million on mortgage indemnity and £42.5 million for the post-election IRA bombs - without which, Roger Neville, the chief executive, said, Sun Alliance would have broken even in the second quarter.

The group pegged its interim dividend at 5.25p per share. Sun Alliance shares jumped 14 per cent to 253p, against a 3 per cent average rise for the stock market.

In Britain, the underwriting loss was little changed at £24.5 million on premium income up 9 per cent to £94.4 million. This, however, disguised a stronger underlying improvement, partly due to the bomb claims, which have caused Sun Alliance to seek non-weather catastrophe cover.

Only £50 million was allowed for mortgage indemnity in the first half of 1991, before a change in provisioning produced a total charge of £320 million for the year. Sun Alliance says losses have now stabilised at a high level. Analysts expect indemnity losses of about £200 million for the year.

The group shed 100,000 of its 1.6 million motor accounts after raising rates in the competitive broker market.

Mr Neville said the group was now seeing benefits from rate increases in this and other personal account business.

Underwriting losses were halved to £20.7 million in continental Europe and profits were earned in South Africa and on Sun Alliance's share of the Chubb pool in America. Hurricane Andrew is expected to cost about £12 million in the second half.

Shareholders' funds, excluding the value of the life assurance company, fell from £1.68 billion in December to £1.39 billion at the end of June.

The solvency margin, including minority interests, fell from 69 per cent to 56 per cent but is still the highest in the sector.

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No.1. No Wonder.

Chill factor fails to halt Rolls-Royce

OF THE two million investors who paid 170p a share for Rolls-Royce, the aero engines and power engineering group, in the heady days of early 1987, only 550,000 are around to collect the maintained interim dividend of 2.55p a share, which has again been short-earned.

Earnings rose from 0.1p to 0.9p a share, not nearly enough to finance the £25 million dividend payment, and the board has had to dip into the reserves to the tune of £16 million. Rolls-Royce, which ended last year with £50 million or so of cash, had seen the balance dwindle to just £2 million by June 30. Interest charges of £10 million, only half of which were leases, bear testimony to the need to borrow money during the half year.

Lord Tombs, the outgoing chairman, has been consistent on dividend policy. During talks with the government on privatisation in 1987 he insisted that Rolls-Royce needed a strong balance sheet "because sometimes the wind blows cold in our industry". The chill factor has rarely been higher than it is now.

Lord Tombs believes the results are in line with the expectations of a steady improvement in performance over the next few years. He offered no direct comment on the final dividend.

First-half pre-tax profits rose from £11 million to £20 million, a fall from the £40 million earned in last year's second half. The first half comparison is complicated by a fall in exceptional restructur-

ing costs, from £26 million to £14 million, and by about £10 million of profits lost to the weaker dollar. It should also be borne in mind that the charge to profits for research and development fell from £118 million to £109 million. Those high margin orders for civil aircraft spares appear likely to materialise more next year than this year as the big airlines keep inventories as low as possible. So full-year forecasts by outsiders are coming down from £110 million to £80 million before tax or 5.2p a share of earnings, against £51 million and 2.5p of earnings a year ago. But for the following year, profits are tentatively forecast at £150 million. At 128p, down 4p yesterday, the shares stand on an earnings multiple of 24.6. A maintained total dividend of 7.25p is expected. Hold.

Ladbroke

CYRIL Stein's decision to face Ladbroke's followers at the interim stage for the first time in the memory of most analysts underlined again the concern of company chairmen that the message should not become confused in these difficult times.

Ladbroke's share price underperformed the market by more than 20 per cent between mid-July and the end of August, as Mr Stein resisted pressure to revalue the group's property at halfway and speculation about pressure on the dividend began to circulate. At £103.2 million, profits have emerged at the bottom end of market expecta-



One step closer to recovery: Richard Oster, left, and Robert Malpas, of Cookson

tations, given that they include a £23 million surplus on hotel sales. The hotels proved the real disappointment, making only £45 million against £53.2 million, both clean of disposals, despite a three-point increase in the occupancy rate.

The real impediment is the property portfolio, unquestionably in the books at an inflated value, but over which Mr Stein displays a frustrating lack of urgency. The new accounting requirements will mean that a great

er chunk of the portfolio will be revalued externally at the year-end, but analysts are left guessing at how big a hit the group may have to take.

A 10 per cent, or £100 million, writedown is the popular expectation, although Mr Stein would almost certainly win extra brownie points for taking an ultra-cautious view, removing uncertainty from the share price.

Some buoyancy was achieved yesterday with the unusual promise of an at least unchanged final dividend.

Ladbroke is trading well, given the conditions, and should make £210 million clean of property writedowns this year. Given a clearer property picture, the shares, at 152p yesterday, will begin to look good value.

Cookson Group

COOKSON Group's much improved interim profit has quelled market fears that the recovery promises regularly uttered by Richard Oster, its managing director, in recent

times were going to turn out to be mere puff and bluster.

Pre-tax profits doubled to £34 million, a maintained, but now covered, 3p a share interim dividend, and productivity gains that have led progressively to higher margins on sales over the past three six-monthly periods — 4.6 per cent, to 6.3 per cent, and on to 7 per cent — is the stuff of which recoveries are made.

Cookson, of which Robert Malpas is chairman, was lucky to have escaped being taken over after fortunes crashed in 1990 and pre-tax profits slumped from £183 million to £97.5 million, and when profits fell further last year to £34.4 million. But since the dark days, Cookson has rationalised operations, continues to attract costs, and is determined that its various financial ratios will continue to improve.

More buoyant trading conditions would help, and earnings will have to be sufficient to cover a dividend at least twice before the payout can be expected to be stepped up. But at least Cookson looks capable of achieving further margin improvement in the second half, and year end profits of £75 million would confirm that the recovery drumbeat is not hollow.

Those who risked buying Cookson at its 1990 nadir, when the shares had fallen to 65p, have since seen their investment double. Yesterday, Cookson shares rose a further 13p to 135p, to trade on 15.2 times prospective earnings. Hold on.

Iceland packs in profits

By JOH ASHWORTH

ICELAND Frozen Foods lifted pre-tax profits by 19 per cent to £24.2 million (£20.3 million) in the 26 weeks to June 27.

Britain's largest frozen food retailer is raising its interim dividend to 3.1p (2.65p) on earnings per share of 17.8p, against 14.8p last time. Sales increased 14.8 per cent to £480 million (£413 million) and food sales on a "like for like" basis rose 11 per cent. Iceland is now averaging more than 2.7 million transactions a week and expects to open 45 stores this year. But there are no signs of improvement in the economic climate.

Malcolm Walker, chairman and chief executive, said the figures illustrated the "huge consumer demand" for the group's shops as food sales rose by 11 per cent.

Mr Walker added: "The economic climate does not seem to be getting any better. Iceland nevertheless continues to improve its relative position with healthy volume growth, an increasing number of customers and a growing market share."

Bowden strategy pays off

By MATTHEW BOND

WILSON Bowden brought a little relief to the beleaguered housebuilding sector with figures that suggested its strategy of maximising profit margin rather than the number of houses sold was modestly paying off.

A total of 643 houses was sold in the six months to end-June, against 650 sold in the first half of 1991. Operating margins fell from 23 to 16 per cent, a level that David Wilson, the chairman, described as "excellent" considering the difficulties of the market. Pre-tax profits fell from £15.4 million to £10.3 million.

There had been concern when Persimmon, which, like Wilson Bowden is one of the most respected housebuilders, reported unexpectedly lower profits and operating margins of 12.9 per cent. Net pre-tax margins fell lower still, to 10.1 per cent, as the cost of opening new sites raised Persimmon's interest bill.

Mr Wilson said the outlook for housebuilding and property development was for "continuing weak demand". The interim dividend is maintained at 2.5p.

Bush under fire over wheat sales

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE international trade war in agricultural products, which threatens to sink the Uruguay Round of world trade talks, escalated yesterday, with the European Commission accusing President Bush of putting his domestic political survival before the urgent need to jump-start the Gatt negotiations.

The commission labelled President Bush's decision to put an extra 30 million tons of American wheat on the world market at subsidised prices "belligerent and not productive", and demanded more details from Washington as to how soon and to whom the wheat would be sold.

Australia, another leading world farm product exporter, said the enlargement of America's export enhancement programme "threatens to escalate further the trade subsidy war between the US and the EC". Quoting Paul Keating, Aus-

tralia's prime minister, the statement added: "We deeply regret that domestic political pressures have over-ruled a US commitment to the pursuit of a less corrupted international trading environment for farm products."

Australia and the EC are worried that by offering cheap wheat to countries like South Africa, Pakistan and other African nations for the first time, Washington will throw world markets into a downward spiral.

The commission wanted to know if the new American subsidies, which will cost \$1.2 billion, will be added to the near \$800 million a year it spends promoting its cereal exports.

Bush presented his new package for electoral purposes, one EC source said. The president announced his offer to 500 farmers at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He has made attacks on EC agricultural policies and "fortress Europe" in similar territory.

Wheat export subsidies have been frozen since a mid-term review of the Gatt talks in Montreal in 1988. Under a gentleman's agreement, America and the EC offer their cur-price wheat to different markets, but under the new Bush deal that agreement appears to have been broken. Both sides seem to be targeting the north African nations.

"This is not productive for the already fractious relationship between the two sides," the commission said.



Keating: trade war threat

Pentos payout pegged despite fall in profit

PENTOS, the books to office equipment retailer that owns Dillons, Athena and Ryman, saw pre-tax profits dip 17 per cent to £2.4 million (£2.9 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share fell 24 per cent to 1.4p (1.7p) and the interim dividend is held at 0.7p a share.

Shares in the company slipped 7p to 114p in June when Terry Maher, the chairman, gave warning of lower first-half profits. They rose from 65p to 73p yesterday. Pentos paid £3 million for the loss-making Wilding office equipment chain in December and has incorporated it into the Ryman division. Dillons sales increased 10 per cent and Ryman sales excluding Wilding were up 6 per cent, but Athena saw sales slip 2 per cent. Office furniture sales fell 15 per cent and profits were down 28 per cent.

Provident Financial up

PROVIDENT Financial, a Bradford consumer finance group, lifted pre-tax profits 21 per cent to £12.8 million (£10.6 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share were 16.7p (14.37p) and there is an interim dividend of 9.25p (8.5p). Provident Personal Credit, a subsidiary specialising in weekly collected credit, achieved good gains, against a background of store closures and reduced stock levels: the number of branches has fallen from 404 to 368. Collections improved and bad debts moderated. Halifax Insurance increased its customer base by 16 per cent to 325,000 policyholders.

Whitbread sale

WHITBREAD, the brewer, has sold its Pizza Hut businesses in Belgium and The Netherlands to Pizza Hut International, a subsidiary of PepsiCo Inc of America, for an undisclosed sum. The disposal includes 21 outlets that are currently trading and two sites in The Netherlands that are close to completion. Whitbread and Pizza Hut have a joint venture in Britain under which Whitbread operates more than 200 franchises. The two companies will continue to work together to secure the sale of the franchise in France. PepsiCo covers soft drinks, snack foods and restaurants.

Waterford tumbles

WATERFORD Wedgwood, the Irish crystal and ceramics group, reported a loss of £5.77 million (£5.4 million) before tax, against a £2.03 million loss last time. There is again no interim dividend. The company had already announced a restructuring plan, involving the loss of 500 jobs, which Donald Brennan, the chairman, defended. "The absence of any sustained sign of overall improvement in worldwide business conditions confirms that the initiatives which management has been implementing over the past year... are correct," he said.

Jourdan losses deepen

THOMAS Jourdan, a hardware and trouser-press maker, is holding its interim dividend at 0.5p a share, although pre-tax losses deepened from £595,000 to £874,000 in the six months to June 30. Losses worked through at 3.75p a share, against a 2.21p deficit last time. There was an exceptional charge of £290,000 against reorganisation costs and redundancies. Gearing remained at 45 per cent, despite the purchase of a property for £423,000 to terminate the existing lease obligations. The company has cut costs but does not expect trading conditions to improve this year.

TWC back in black

TRANS World Communications, the commercial radio group, returned to profit in the half year to end-June, helped by reduced costs, a small increase in revenue and lower interest charges after last year's £12 million rights issue. Pre-tax profits were £395,000, against losses of £1.09 million, with earnings of 1.1p a share (5.3p loss). There is no dividend (nil) but the company said prospects for returning to the dividend list were encouraging, pending the full-year outcome.

Turnover rose from £5.2 million to £5.7 million and there was an operating profit of £359,000 (£317,000 loss).

Southdown enquiry

THE monopolies commission is to investigate Southdown Motor Services, a bus company that is accused of operating "predatory and anti-competitive" services to try to force a rival off the road. Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of fair trading, referred the company after an Office of Fair Trading report. This stated that Southdown operated on certain routes in the Bognor Regis area of Sussex, on which Easy Rider Minicoaches also offered services, at a loss. Sir Bryan said Southdown, now called Sussex Coastline Buses, had failed to give acceptable undertakings that it would cease the practice.

Air Canada bids again

AIR Canada, which has made a US\$400 million bid for Continental Airlines of America and signed a passenger-sharing pact with United, has made a second bid for PWA, parent of the financially troubled Canadian Airlines. PWA said it is reviewing the merger proposal. Air Canada says the offer would eliminate duplicate international operations and excess capacity in Canada, to permit the continuing separate operations of both airlines.

REVISED INVESTMENT INTEREST RATES

EFFECTIVE FROM 5 SEPTEMBER 1992

MAIN DISCONTINUED ISSUES				
	% Gross	% Gross C.A.R.*1	% Net	% Net C.A.R.*1
ECOLIFE				
£50,000 or more	10.57	11.10	7.93	8.32
£25,000 - £49,999	10.12	10.60	7.59	7.86
£10,000 - £24,999	9.34	9.75	7.01	7.24
£5,000 - £9,999	8.65	9.00	6.49	6.69
£1 - £4,999	2.00	2.02	1.50	1.51
POSTAL ACCOUNT (Annual Interest)				
£20,000 or more	10.80	-	8.10	-
£10,000 - £19,999	10.55	-	7.91	-
£2,000 - £9,999	10.30	-	7.73	-
£1 - £1,999	2.00	-	1.50	-
POSTAL ACCOUNT (Monthly Interest)				
£20,000 or more	10.30	-	7.73	-
£10,000 - £19,999	10.07	-	7.55	-
£5,000 - £9,999	9.84	-	7.38	-
£1 - £4,999	2.00	-	1.50	-

*1 Rates may vary.
*2 Compounded Annual Rate is the annual return on your savings if monthly interest payments are reinvested in the account.
*3 Interest will be payable net of basic rate income tax presently 25% (which may be reduced by non-taxpayers or, subject to the required requirements, paid in instalments by non-taxpayers) on longer available and not listed, are available on request. These remain unchanged.

NR
NORTHERN ROCK

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SUN ALLIANCE

INTERIM STATEMENT

The estimated results for the six months ended 30th June, 1992 are set out below with the comparative figures for 1991.

	6 months to 30th June 1992 (unaudited) £m	6 months to 30th June 1991 (unaudited) £m	Year 1991* (audited) £m
Premium income -			
General insurance	1,462.5	1,425.7	2,677.9
Long-term insurance	627.9	444.7	1,017.7
	2,090.4	1,870.4	3,695.6
General insurance underwriting result	(280.8)	(305.2)	(833.5)
Long-term insurance profits	27.3	25.9	54.3
Investment and other income	155.6	165.2	313.0
Profit (loss) before taxation	(97.9)	(114.1)	(466.2)
Taxation	8.0	(11.0)	(2.7)
Profit (loss) after taxation	(105.9)	(103.1)	(468.5)
Minority interests	6.7	4.8	8.2
Profit (loss) attributable to shareholders	(112.6)	(107.9)	(471.7)
Earnings (loss) per share	(14.1p)	(13.5p)	(59.2p)

*Extracted from the statutory accounts for 1991 filed with the Registrar of Companies.

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF GENERAL INSURANCE RESULTS

	6 months to 30th June 1992		6 months to 30th June 1991		Year 1991	
	Premium income	Underwriting result	Premium income	Underwriting result	Premium income	Underwriting result
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
United Kingdom	944.4	(244.7)	873.4	(243.4)	1,667.1	(713.0)
Europe	259.4	(20.7)	231.7	(41.1)	445.8	(78.2)
USA	106.9	3.3	142.3	0.3	249.1	0.8
Canada	28.9	(6.3)	39.0	(7.2)	68.2	(18.7)
Australia	48.1	(7.1)	59.7	(8.3)	108.7	(12.3)
Other overseas	74.3	(5.3)	79.6	(5.5)	139.0	(12.1)
	1,462.5	(280.8)	1,425.7	(305.2)	2,677.9	(833.5)

DIVIDEND

The Directors have declared an interim dividend for 1992 of 5.25p per share (1991: 5.25p). The dividend, costing £42.1m (1991: £41.9m), will be paid on 1st December, 1992 to shareholders on the register at close of business on 15th October, 1992. The scrip dividend alternative will again be offered.

SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

The Group's net assets at 30th June, 1992, excluding the value of long-term business, were estimated at £1,394m (31st December, 1991: £1,684m). The solvency margin including minority interests was 56% (31st December, 1991: 69%).

2nd September, 1992

Sun Alliance Group plc
Head Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane London EC2N 2AB

T&N seeks German acquisition as interim figure leaps

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

T&N, the automotive components group, is planning to increase its presence in Germany. Colin Hope, the chairman, said he is evaluating three acquisition prospects, each "closer to £100 million than to £10 million", and is likely to make a decision on one soon.

Mr Hope announced yesterday that T&N, formerly Turner & Newall, is back on the road to recovery after it pushed up pre-tax profits by 71 per cent to £34.7 million in the first half of 1992, on turnover 2 per cent higher at £712 million. The recovery is

largely due to a huge cost-cutting exercise. T&N cut its workforce by about 1,000 in the six months to 38,000, continuing last year's redundancy programme. It lost about 3,000 staff in 1991.

Mr Hope said: "While the recession lasts we will be taking between 1,000 to 2,000 people out for the next year or so."

These actions produced an exceptional charge of £5.7 million, compared with £6.8 million in the first half of 1991.

Earnings per share increased from 2.82p to 4p. Mr Hope said T&N intends to maintain earnings growth and plans to finance any acquisition through debt rather than through another rights issue. He said he is looking at businesses in Germany that will complement T&N's existing product lines and "which would respond to the type of efficiencies we have been introducing in T&N".

T&N had debts of £180 million at the end of June, with gearing of 33 per cent.

The interim dividend is held at 3.6p. Mr Hope said the dividend was uncovered last year and it is the company's objective to maintain a covered dividend for 1992. T&N paid a maintained 10.85p last year.

Last year, profits continued a slide that started in 1989 as demand for its products in the world's automotive markets fell. These difficulties contin-

ued this year. Mr Hope said: "Erratic and faltering demand has been combined with intense pricing pressure."

The company managed to increase its market share in the first half, but Mr Hope puts the recovery down to cost-cutting.

He said the long-hoped-for recovery in the world automotive market had never materialised. "The current indications are that there will be at best no improvement in our markets over the next few months," he added.

The cost of fighting and settling asbestos claims rose from £7.3 million to £8.5 million. Mr Hope said that of the 130 claims made when problems with its fire-proofing materials arose in 1985, only 30 remained to be settled, including a \$75 million claim from Chase Manhattan Bank. Its exposure was reduced in July when an American jury dismissed a \$75 million lawsuit from Prudential Insurance Company of America.

The British market is still the company's biggest source of profits, with operating profits up from £17.1 million to £20.7 million. Profits from continental Europe fell from £7.4 million to £6.2 million due to restructuring costs in Italy and Germany. North American profits almost doubled to £12 million as the benefits of the 1990 JPI acquisition and other investments flowed through.

Williams holds interim dividend

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

WILLIAMS Holdings, the industrial group, saw its pre-tax profits slip 5.8 per cent to £72.1 million in the six months ended June, but adds that the background was one of the most difficult trading periods on record. The group is maintaining its interim dividend at 5p. Nigel Rudd, chairman, says the recession persisted in Britain, while in continental Europe most economies were fragile and the political outlook unsettled.

In North America, there will be uncertainty before November's presidential election, although Williams says its order intake is up to expectations and prudent cost controls will make it well positioned for any economic recovery.

In April, Williams sold its 10 per cent stake in Racal Electronics on which it realised a book profit of £11 million. The disposal will, in the second half, help ease the interest charge, which in the first half of 1992 was £10 million (£3.6 million).

Mr Rudd said the group's return on sales at 16.7 per cent in the first half of 1992, though down from 17.2 per cent, must be considered satisfactory considering the economic background.

The slump in trading profits from £12.6 million to £4.3 million in the engineering division stemmed from the dominance of Williams Fairley Engineering, whose orders and deliveries of military bridges traditionally fluctuate. However, the order book and prospects for next year and beyond are encouraging.

Product innovation and increased market share helped the European consumer and building products division make trading profits of £32.2 million (£26.2 million), on which margins of 18 per cent (15.5 per cent) were achieved. Fire and safety international suffered from the downturn in the incidence of aircraft manufacturing and reduced orders for spares.



Rudd: difficult trading

Reckitt & Colman gains at half time

BY OUR CITY STAFF

RECKITT & Colman, the household products, toiletries and food group, increased pre-tax profits 5.2 per cent to £134 million in the first half of 1992 and has raised the dividend 7.2 per cent to 5.95p.

Earnings rose 5 per cent to 21.24p and the shares gained 4p to 533p. Sales dropped 4p to £533p. Sales dropped from £994 million to £936 million, reflecting disposals. Interest charges fell from £19.8 million to £17 million.

The group says economic conditions remain depressed and that no short-term improvement seems likely but that it will continue to support new product development and strengthen the competitiveness of key brands. Reckitt managed to raise trading profit margins from 14.8 to 16.2 per cent.

The profit attributable to shareholders falls from £70 million to £30 million because of the expected £52 million extraordinary loss on the dis-

posal of the spice business in America.

Household and toiletry profits rose 1.2 per cent to £105 million thanks to new product development, including the Airwick AirWaves electrical air freshener in America. Barbara Gould skin care products advanced strongly in France and Spain and were introduced into Portugal.

Food profits rose from £20.8 million to £21.2 million, despite the American sale and the disposal of South African food interests. Colman's of Norwich remained a strong performer and the Robinsons Ready Drinks helped.

Pharmaceutical profits rose from £19.4 million to £20 million and Disprin Direct had an encouraging introduction in Britain. The Detol antiseptic range was extended into Asia and Lemsp was successfully launched in Australia.



Good prospects: Lawrence Urquhart, chairman, with Syntec FSX, a synthetic product that is expected to start yielding profits next year

Burmah Oil's profits flow bountifully

BY GEORGE SIVELL

BURMAH Castrol raised pre-tax profits by 17 per cent, to a better than expected £84.7 million, in the six months to June 30. The result was achieved despite the fact that the company's three main activities, Castrol oil, speciality chemicals and fuels, all depend heavily on world economic activity.

The market was pleasantly surprised by a 3 per cent rise in the half-year dividend to 8.75p and the shares rose 7p to 552p. Burmah warned investors, however, that there were no clear signs of substantial recovery in its main markets and currency movements were likely to have an adverse impact on second-

half results. A quarter of Burmah's sales are estimated to be in America and the company will therefore suffer from the plunging dollar. That is unlikely to be offset by sterling's fall against the mark or by the sourcing of raw materials from dollar-linked economies. First-half profits lost £2.5 million as a result of currency movements and the dollar has since fallen further.

Burmah said the American launch this month of Syntec FSX, a new synthetic motor oil, could knock £7 million or so off second-half trading profits. It expects, however, that Syntec FSX will generate profits by the end of 1993.

Jonathan Fry, the managing director, said Castrol had been gaining about a percentage point a year of American market share. It was now, at 15 per cent, within three points of Pennzoil, the market leader. Burmah believes the American oil business is counter-cyclical because in a recession cars are kept for longer and their owners pay more attention to maintenance.

Interest charges fell from £24.3 million to £19.9 million, thanks to disposals from Foseco, the specialist chemicals group acquired for £260 million in December 1990. Burmah says control of costs, capital expenditure and a

restructuring of Foseco debt also helped. Gearing is down from 72 per cent to 65 per cent. After-tax profits rose 26 per cent to £41.6 million, because the tax charge fell from 47 to 44 per cent.

Burmah suffers from earnings profits in high-tax countries but in the latest half-year, a higher proportion of pre-tax profit was earned in the UK, that reduced the advanced corporation tax write-off.

Lubricants profits rose 11 per cent to £65 million on a 13 per cent increase in volume and rising market share in America. European profits fell and sales to industry suffered because of recession.

Property blow to Singer

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE property slump has caused profits to plunge at Singer & Friedlander, the merchant banking group, despite continuing growth in its core banking business.

The group was forced to take an exceptional charge of £5.3 million due to the fall in the value of its property portfolio. This depressed pre-tax profits in the half year to end-June by 60 per cent to £3.25 million. The interim dividend is held at 1p.

John Hodson, Singer's chief executive, said the charge had been caused by accounting requirements stemming from the reverse takeover of the group in 1987 by Gilbert House, a small property company. Singer's property portfolio, then valued at £79 million, is worth £70 million.

Tony Solomon, the group chairman, said the charge was unfortunate since the property was virtually fully let and there were few rent arrears.

Profits from Singer's main banking businesses rose 11 per cent to £4.76 million, despite a £10 million fall in the loan book to £255 million. Mr Hodson said the bank had reduced some less profitable areas of lending but had expanded in the regions.

Regulator criticises Citicorp

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN banking regulators are believed to have delivered a scathing attack on the management at Citicorp, America's largest financial services group.

In a widely circulated report of a working paper leaked to a news organisation, the examining unit of the Comptroller of the Currency, the most senior banking regulator, is alleged to have been sharply critical of Citicorp's home mortgage business saying there are "serious issues warranting the attention of senior management... In virtually all functional areas". The report is believed to be dated August 18, 1992.

The bank replied in a statement last night: "Under US law designed to assure confidential and candid dialogue between bank regulators and management, we cannot comment on the content of what is purported to be a working document of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. The US mortgage problems are not new to our management; they have been identified and disclosed and are being addressed."

On August 15, regulators forced the bank to restate profits 16 per cent lower at \$14.3 million after errors in its mortgage department inflated group profits by \$28 million for April to June this year.

Weak dollar hurts Courtaulds

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

THE ailing dollar and high European interest rates are threatening the prosperity of Courtaulds Textiles.

Pre-tax profits edged from £16.6 million to £17.0 million in the first half of 1992, but Martin Taylor, chief executive, claims the increase would have been twice as big had exchange rates held steady.

Chronic dollar weakness, reinforced by the high level of interest rates in Europe, is adding to the pressure on margins, he says. "It under-

mines our competitiveness as well as weakening the markets into which we sell."

A property revaluation has led to a £9.4 million or 13 per cent write-down of land and buildings.

Profits for the half year were hit by a £2 million exceptional charge relating to the restructuring of the clothing division. A year ago there was a comparable £500,000 charge. Earnings per share for the six months were 12.7p (12.3p) and the interim dividend rises

from 4.2p to 4.4p a share. Below the line, the sale of closed factories is largely responsible for a £4.4 million credit, against a £7.2 million charge a year ago, pushing up attributable profits to £167.2 million against £5.2 million.

Courtaulds' branded clothing operations suffered in the high street recession, with profits sinking from £2.8 million to £1.7 million, but own-label clothing rose to £4.7 million (£4.2 million) as cost-cutting measures took effect.

TOTAL: First half results 1992

The consolidated financial statements, which will be reviewed by the Board of Directors during the meeting of September 22, show the following results for the first half of 1992:

Millions of French francs	Six months ended		
	June 30, 1992	June 30, 1991	Dec. 31, 1991
Sales	68,755	69,584	73,435
Cash flow	5,287	7,614	6,040
Operating income of business segments	3,403	5,767	4,565
Net income after minority interests	1,906	3,610	2,300
Earnings per share (FF)	9.0	18.8	10.4
Earnings per A.D.S. (\$)	0.88	N.A.	1.01

The 47% decrease in net income after minority interests which was FF1,906 million compared to FF3,610 million in the first half of 1991 was achieved during a difficult economic environment in which hopes for a world economic recovery have not been confirmed. This economic situation is characterized by a weak demand for petroleum products, in particular in the industrialized countries, and by a depressed level of prices and margins. The consequences are reinforced by the growing weakness of the dollar against European currencies; although, on average it was stable for the period (FF5.48 compared to FF5.55 in 1991), it closed at FF5.13 compared to FF6.14 as of June 30, 1991.

The resulting decrease in earnings, which was experienced generally within the oil industry, in comparison with the first half of 1991, should be evaluated in the context of the unusual situation created by the Gulf crisis which brought refining margins to an exceptionally high level during the first quarter of 1991.

The sales of the combined business segments of the Group were at a level comparable to that of the first half of 1991. An analysis by segment shows a small decrease in petroleum activity sales for which the increase in volumes has not compensated for the decrease in prices. In contrast, the sales of the chemicals segment significantly increased, above the amount related to acquisitions made.

Cash flow was FF5,287 million compared to FF7,614 million for the first half of 1991. Earnings per share decreased from FF18.8 to FF9.0. This amount takes into account the 10% increase in the number of shares during the year.

The impact of exceptional items on these results was very minor as was the case for the first half of 1991. Operating income was FF3,403 million and can be broken down as follows:

Millions of French francs	Six months ended		
	June 30, 1992	June 30, 1991	Dec. 31, 1991
Exploration and Production	1,315	1,418	1,531
Refining and Marketing	304	542	495
Chemicals	932	3,084	1,784
Total	3,403	5,767	4,565

The Exploration and Production segment, which had an operating income close to that of the first half of 1991, has increased its production. Calculated according to SEC rules, the production has increased in total by 9% compared to the first half of 1991, of which 7% relates to gas (7.2 million cubic feet per day compared to 6.1 million cubic feet per day) and 12% to oil (154,000 barrels per day compared to 138,000 barrels per day). The average sales prices of oil and gas decreased by 8% and 6%, respectively, during the same period.

The decrease in Trading and Middle East operating income is due primarily to the impact of the sharp drop in shipping rates (down 40% compared to the first half of 1991) which has reduced the operating result of the marine transportation activity and, in an indirect manner, that of the products trading for which the international markets have been very depressed. Production of crude oil in the Middle East decreased by 8% (305,000 barrels per day compared to 323,000 barrels per day), in particular, in the United Arab Emirates.

The Mining segment, now part of the Trading and Middle East segment, has confirmed its return to profitability.

The Refining and Marketing segment is responsible for most of the decrease in operating income. The first half of 1992 was characterized primarily by:

- a significant decrease in refining margins in Europe. The average margin of a European complex refinery dropped from 5.28/b for the first half of 1991 to 2.15/b for the first half of 1992. This low level, caused by a depressed economic situation and a high inventory level at the beginning of the period, was maintained throughout the summer;
- the continuing weak margins in the United States in the first quarter.

The good performance of the marketing activity in Europe should be noted. Growth in market share was achieved and productivity of the network increased due to continued streamlining efforts. The growth in sales of unleaded gasoline contributed to this trend.

The Chemicals segment has confirmed its progress despite the weakness in many of its markets. The increase in operating income resulted from the excellent performance of Hutchinson, the good profitability level in paints and the significant improvement in resins and inks, notably from productivity gains in the past two years.

The gross capital expenditures of the Group were FF7,891 million compared with FF8,582 million in the first half of 1991. The net debt to equity ratio was 30% on June 30, 1992 compared to 31.5% on June 30, 1991. It had been 25% at December 31, 1991 after the October 1991 capital increase.

TOTAL Parent Company: Net income increased to FF3,047 million, compared with FF3,773 million for the first half of 1991.



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STOCK MARKET

Shares soar £12bn as bears run for cover

THE stock market responded enthusiastically to the Bank of England's latest move to prop up the ailing pound, making its biggest one-day rise since the general election in April.

Share prices and government bonds rose dramatically, with the FT-SE 100 index shaking off its gloom to soar 68.9 points to 2,381.9 after having reached an 18-month low earlier this week. A massive £12.87 billion was added to the value of Britain's publicly quoted companies, with prices being squeezed higher as the bears rushed to cover their short positions with just one day of the two-week account left. By the close of business, a total of 551 million shares had changed hands, which failed to justify the market's rise.

Sentiment received a much-needed boost as the prospect of another rise in interest rates, or a devaluation of the pound, began to fade after the Bank's decision to borrow £7.25 billion in the form of Ecu made up of various foreign currencies.

Brokers appeared happy that the threat to rates and the pound had receded for the time being, but many of them admitted that the equity mar-

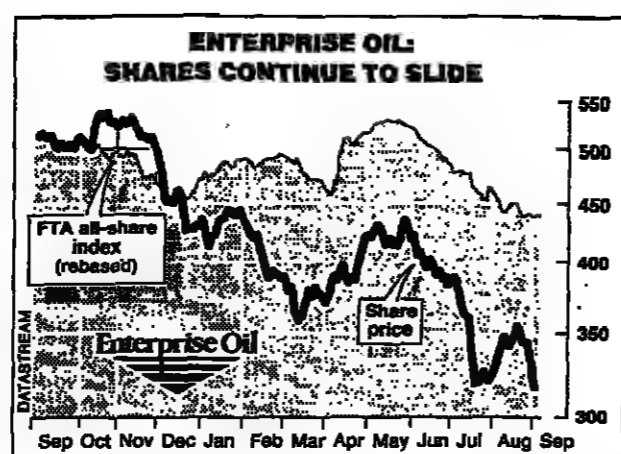
ket had started to look over-sold and that this turnaround may be an over-reaction. Some investors may have had a rethink about yesterday's events by the time trading resumes this morning.

Volatility in the futures market also fuelled some of the gains in the cash market. The September series finished with a premium of about 28 points, compared with its fair value of 5 points, as dealers struggled to cover short positions.

Blue chips led the way higher, with double-figure gains in many instances. ICI was up 35p to £11.06, Allied-Lyons 19p to 57.2p, P&O 25p to 358p, Bass 25p to 500p, BOC Group 12p to 634p, and Courtalds 20p to 438p. Companies with high gearing or whose business relies on lower interest rates also made heavy gains.

The market also had to contend with a long list of trading statements from leading companies.

Sun Alliance jumped 18p to 240p despite weighing in with half-year losses totalling £9.9 million. But the performance was better than the City had expected and the deficit fell short of the £11.4 million recorded this time last year.



The group said the IRA bombing of the City of London had resulted in a £42 million claim.

The rest of the composites

153p, and Guardian Royal Exchange 2p to 127p.

The market had second thoughts about the interim figures from Ladbroke, with

BP climbed back above £2 with a rise of 6p to 201p amid the first signs that British investors may be having a change of heart. One broker is known to be trying to satisfy a large buy order on behalf of an institutional client for up to 20 million shares. More than 8 million were traded yesterday.

took heart from Sun Alliance's performance with Commercial Union climbing 10p to 465p. General Accident 6p to 424p, Royal Insurance 2p to

the shares finishing under 240p after some reassuring words at the analysts' meeting.

£23 million from the sale of hotels. The group has maintained the interim dividend and has promised to hold the final. Peter Joseph, an analyst at Smith New Court, the broker, is keeping to his forecast for the full year of £230 million, which includes £40 million from hotel disposals, but others are looking for no more than £210 million-£225 million.

Half-year figures from Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine group, failed to live up to expectations, leaving the price 4p cheaper at 128p. Pre-tax profits were up from £11 million to £20 million and the dividend was maintained, but the figures were at the bottom end of forecasts. Smith New Court was unimpressed and reduced its profit estimate for the current year from £110 million to £90 million and for next year by £20 million to £170 million.

Williams Holdings rallied from an early markdown after announcing interim pre-tax profits down 64.5 million to £72 million.

The share price finished 20p better at 250p after some reassuring words at the analysts' meeting.

132p after seeing interim profits double to £34 million after a drop in interest charges from £14 million to £9 million.

Shares in T&N, the automotive products group, responded to a rise in half-year pre-tax profits of £14.4 million to £34.7 million with a rise of 9p to 136p.

Reckitt & Colman, the foods and household products group, touched 543p before ending the day 2p lower at 527p after raising first-half pre-tax profits by £6.6 million to £134.2 million.

Burnham Castrol pleased analysts with a better than expected performance, showing net profits 26 per cent higher at £41.6 million. The shares were rewarded with a mark-up of 23p to 568p.

But Enterprise Oil continued to lose ground, falling 4p to 320p, after a placing of 2 per cent of the company's shares earlier this week. Hoare Govett, the broker, bought the shares at 315p each and sold them to clients at 318p each — a discount of 8.5 per cent to the ruling market price. The seller is believed to have been Gartmore Investment Management.

MICHAEL CLARK

RECENT ISSUES

Birtby (100)	91	SHKESBOT	498
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	101	TR Tech Units	1700
Dartmoor Inv Trst Warrants	7	Telegraph (25)	282
Dwyer A	19	Thrup 1000 Smr Co Wts	13
Euro Smir Co's	82	Yorkshire TV Warrants	14
Euro Smir Wts	22		
Finbury Smr Co 0 Prt	148		
Kiwort Endowment Play	100		
Quality Care Hns (136)	151		

MAJOR CHANGES

Barclays	302p (+12p)	BOC	634p (+12p)
Bank of America	317p (+12p)	Cookson	134p (+12p)
Bank of India	517p (+12p)	Glen	746p (+25p)
Bank of London	520p (+12p)	Inchcape	418p (+25p)
Bank of Montreal	425p (+15p)	Rolls-Royce	754p (+15p)
Bank of Paris	572p (+18p)		
Bank of Scotland	500p (+25p)		
Bank of South Africa	412p (+17p)		
Bank of West	585p (+17p)		
Bank of Western	390p (+17p)		
Bank of York	482p (+13p)		

Closing Prices Page 21

WORLD MARKETS

Nikkei up 798 points on rate cut hopes

Tokyo — The Nikkei index surged and closed 798.77 points, or 4.54 per cent, higher at 18,386.49. Revived hopes of lower interest rates and talk of the government issuing deficit-financing bonds boosted sentiment.

The buying back of issues that had been oversold and demand for blue chips helped turnover rise to about 500 million shares, compared with 418 million shares on Wednesday. Rising shares outnumbered falls by eight to three, with 727 higher, 276 lower, and 120 unchanged.

Tadashi Kawakami, of Merrill Lynch, said: "People were staying sidelined in the morning, trying to see the

market's direction after two weak days. But the market turned around as investment trusts bought back oversold bank issues."

Brokers said that short-covering was triggered by market talk that the Bank of Japan may cut its discount rate to help stop the yen's rise. Talk of the government issuing deficit-financing bonds to help fund its big package of economic measures also cheered sentiment. However, there was scepticism among investors about such rumours and only investment trusts were buying back the oversold shares. Other investors were calm and inactive.

The market opened firmer

and was motionless until mid-morning. Then profit-taking and futures-linked selling hit trading, with the Nikkei reaching its low for the day, of 17,396.43, down 191.29 points, in the late morning.

However, program-linked buying by investment trusts began as the futures market was boosted on rumours and the Nikkei rose, peaking at 18,461.66, up 873.94 points, minutes before the close.

Frankfurt — A bout of heavy short-covering helped shares to claw back most of the previous two days' losses and make gains of 1.6 per cent. The Dax index moved narrowly around the 1,530 mark

for most of the day, ending 24.08 points up at 1,530.75.

Hong Kong — Prices saw one of the quietest days in weeks, becalmed by a lack of news and lingering caution about familiar worries. The Hang Seng index finished down 11.99 points at 5,722.46, with the finance sub-index taking a slight knock from profit-taking.

Sydney — Shares closed lower, although a good profit result from Brambles dispelled enough gloom about corporate earnings to lift the market from its lows. The all-ordinaries index recovered from a low of about 1,521 to close only 2.2 points down at 1,526.3. (Reuters)

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Qualifications: applicants must: ☐ be nationals of one of the Member States of the Community; ☐ have a university degree, preferably in engineering; ☐ have at least twelve years' graduate-level experience since obtaining the above degree, including at least five years' experience in the field of nuclear energy; ☐ have a thorough knowledge and proven experience of the various fields covered by the Euratom Treaty; ☐ have appropriate knowledge of Community policy for the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes; have the skills needed to participate in meetings and negotiations at international level; ☐ have a thorough knowledge of one of the official Community languages and a satisfactory knowledge of a second; a good knowledge of English and French would be an asset; ☐ have been born after 30.06.1949.

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(A7/1) - (Ref. 571/92/II)

Directorate-General: Economic and Financial Affairs. Monetary Matters, Analysis and Development of ECU Markets.

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Place of work: Brussels.

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COMMENT

Trump card for sterling

Actions speak a lot louder than Norman Lamont's words on the steps of the Treasury. The plan cooked up by the Bank of England and other foreign currencies, to borrow £7.2 billion in marks and other foreign currencies and dump them on the foreign exchanges for sterling, is both decisive and clever. Borrowing was needed anyway to finance the burgeoning public sector deficit and to spread the load now that the building societies have ruled out a big rise in National Savings. The government has also committed our money heavily to its own commitment to maintain sterling's parity with the mark. If sterling were devalued, the losses would now run much higher than Mr Lamont's job.

That combination of government resolve with heavy official buying of sterling, which has been determined in advance but could come at any time, will massively raise the short-term risk for anyone thinking of selling the pound short near to its ERM lower limit. Promised buying of sterling is quite different from the mere risk that the Bank of England could intervene with the reserves. For a fairly modest interest rate premium, the authorities have therefore reduced substantially the near-term risk that they would have to raise domestic interest rates to shore up the currency. The move needs, however, to be seen in two contexts. As an insurance policy against a French *non* to Maastricht, it looks excellent value. In the more likely event that the ERM gets back to normal after September 20, the calculations might look less attractive. Moves to drive sterling up will offer backing for the prime minister's commitment to ERM parities but would demonstrate the artificiality of that parity. Sterling would become even more a creature of financial manipulation, unnecessarily high interest rates being backed by intervention that could hardly be claimed as a smoothing operation.

The Chancellor's trump card for sterling should raise its standing in the ERM more strongly in coming days than appeared yesterday, but that merely shifted pressure back onto the Italian lira. The French referendum has diverted attention from the more fundamental imbalances in the international financial system, basically caused by German reunification and the ensuing 6 point gap between German and American interest rates. These tensions will remain if the French fall into line. Britain, after seeking approval of its ERM partners, has virtually ruled out the option of any general realignment. That leaves the imbalance more exposed than before, though it has the useful effect of pointing the finger clearly at Germany and the Bundesbank.

Sun shines

Sun Alliance may still be making losses when some rivals have returned to profit but the sharp improvement in performance discernible beneath its modest cut in pre-tax losses has provided the insurance sector with its best news at the very end of the interim results season. The group heavily underestimated its mortgage indemnity losses in the first half of 1991. Excluding the April bomb claims, underlying losses may have come down by about £110 million. Britain's premier composite has also made a start in answering those who considered that arrogance might have made it complacent. Rate increases and measures to reduce costs and cut out poor business round the globe are bearing fruit faster than management hoped. There is still a long way to go. The group will probably still lose £150 million or more this year and the thought is now of dividend cuts rather than increases. The payment is still likely to be held, so the shares might find old friends on a 7.5 per cent dividend yield.

The TUC, which meets next week, must confront the threat to its existence from legislation and the rise of super unions.

Ross Tieman reports

How Norman Willis must dread the Glorious Twelfth. Each year, the mid-August start to the grouse shooting season seems to coincide with a renewed assault on the position of the Trades Union Congress general secretary. This year, the volley of sniping about his leadership and the calls for him to quit have been even more intense.

True to form, the 59-year-old general secretary, elected to office in 1984, has insisted that he is entitled to stay until the age of 65, but will not. "That is the only decision I have taken," he said.

Poor Mr Willis. The general secretary of the TUC is an educated, amiable and decent man. For eight years, he has struggled to marshal a coherent response from divided union leaders in the face of an onslaught on trade union rights, the like of which has not been seen in Britain since the 1920s.

He is, after all, the spokesman of a general council of some 50 members, a general council that was utterly wrongfooted by the wide popular support that Thatcherism often enjoyed. If the message from Mr Willis was incoherent, that was in part because his council was divided. His achievement in avoiding a greater split in the TUC's ranks should not be underestimated.

Throughout the TUC's exile from influence, the general secretary has served as punchbag for ministers and union general secretaries alike. Even on the ropes, he has frequently shamed more aggressive ministerial critics of trade unions through his self-evident honesty. But he has rarely outshone them. As a speaker, Mr Willis lacks the bite and the originality needed to present new TUC policies to the public.

Until the trade union movement gets its house in order, however, those presentational failings remain a sideshow. It is hard to see how John Monks, the TUC deputy general secretary and Mr Willis's heir apparent, could make a much better fist of the job without a more positive agenda to pursue.

That agenda can no longer be ducked. Two issues will overhang Britain's trade unionists as they gather in Blackpool this weekend for the 124th Congress. Both raise serious questions about the future of the TUC itself.

The first thrust comes from the pledge by Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, to reintroduce the employment bill, which fell by the wayside because of April's election. The bill will contain a clause entitling workers to join the union of their choice. Admirable that may sound, but the effect will be to outlaw the

being both the best hotel in Britain and for being the best city centre hotel. Its sister hotel, the Savoy, was runner up in both categories. According to the Savoy Group, the Lanesborough, run by wealthy Texan, Caroline Hunt, has also failed in its bid to poach its regular Texan guests, such as Baron and Baroness de Portanova, who book Claridge's royal suite — the minimum cost for an ordinary suite there is £550 a night — for three or more months each summer. "They are all with us again this year," a spokeswoman confirms.

There was a sudden flurry of computerised activity at British Gas the other day when the title of a new memorandum was flashed on its computerised bulletin board. It read: "Sick Pay for Stagger Workers."

The poor old taxpayer is, it seems, universally unpopular. The following letter — published verbatim in the *Cape Times* — was recently received by the Zimbabwean Receiver of Revenue: "Collector of Taxes, Harare. Dear Sir, I have to refer to the attached form. I regret so grave I am unable to complete the form as I do not know what is meant by filling this form. However, I am not interested in this income service. Would you please cancel my name from your books as this service has upset my mind and I do not know who has registered me as one of your customers. Yours faithfully..."

CAROL LEONARD

Willis braces himself to address the perilous state of the union



Dodging the snipers again: Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC

TUC's Bridlington Rules, governing the conduct of unions in relation to one another, and are thus at the heart of the TUC's raison d'être.

The Bridlington rules were cobbled together in 1939 at an autumn congress in the Yorkshire seaside town that gave them their name, when everyone was preoccupied by the impending war. For more than 50 years, they have kept the peace between unions, more or less, by preventing the poaching of members. Without the policeman's role, what part will the TUC play?

The intervention of governments coincides with pressure from changes within the union movement itself. The era of the super union is just around the corner.

This year has seen the merger of the AEU engineering union with the electricians' EEUPTU to form the AEEU, a craft union with a million members. Britain's three big public service unions, Naps, Nalco and Colne, are on course to merge into a single main public sector union with 1.4 million members.

Preliminary jockeying for position is under way, which could lead to a merger between the GMB and the T&GWW, creating a general union of two million members. Other links appear inevitable. The forces toward

merger are complex. Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Naps, admitted to being "sick and tired" of the duplication of services, divisions over strategy and the waste of financial resources.

Money matters: in industry, the impact of the manufacturing recession on the AEU was salutary. Membership fell by more than a tenth in a single year as companies cut jobs. As the size of manufacturing plants declined during the past decade, so the union found itself serving a smaller number of employees, in a larger number of locations. Each plant requires more attention from full-time officials. Improved communications enable officials to cover more ground, and render superfluous dense networks of offices built up over a century, which have become ever more costly to run. The AEU started sliding into loss.

The merger with the electricians' union has enabled a rationalisation of branch offices and promises to give the AEEU a profitable platform from which to launch a membership campaign on the strength of the services and support it can offer. It also simplifies bargaining — to the advantage of both employers and

unions. When the economy recovers, it will give union leaders more muscle in talks with employers.

Economies of scale have become important to the survival of trade unions. John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, has suggested that without at least 600,000 members, a union cannot economically maintain the infrastructure necessary to support a nationwide membership.

Smaller unions will thrive only if they restrict themselves to a narrower base, either regional or confined to an interest group spread across a limited range of industries and sites.

The emergence of a single big craft union, another for most of the public services and a huge general union would give three unions a majority of the TUC's eight million members, and therefore command of its direction. But will the super unions still need the TUC? Each would be large enough to train its own officers, enjoy purchasing economies, command discounts from retailers for its members.

There is now a real possibility that the TUC could become little more than a support organisation for unions too small to enjoy the economies of scale of their larger brethren. Such threats to the TUC will not be

resolved by the debates in Blackpool next week. In public, Congress will endeavour once more to paper over the cracks. The dispute over the re-admission of the electricians, suspended four years ago for breaches of the Bridlington rules, will almost certainly be kicked into touch to minimise its power to divide.

And what of Mr Willis's future? Critics argue that if he is going to go, it would be better for him to go now, when the Labour party has just lost an election and replaced its leader. A new TUC general secretary would thus have four years to develop a sound working relationship with John Smith before the next election. They also suggest that unless that happens, the TUC will continue to drift.

Mr Willis, in turn, might well suggest that until the unions can decide the TUC's future, there is little sense in choosing a new leader. However, if the pressure to quit becomes overwhelming, he will go, and gracefully.

However cloudy the future of the TUC, the modernisation of trade unionism may yet stem the membership decline and the movement's fortunes. Membership among women has started to rise in some sectors. If the new super unions can prove themselves effective, and deliver services efficiently and at low cost, they will attract new members. The recession is already beginning to help recruitment campaigns in some industries.

The unions' most difficult task, however, is to rehabilitate their public image, especially in the South. The plan by MSF, the technical union, to seek quality assurance recognition for its operations is ample evidence of the growing influence of a new breed of union officer.

Many middle-ranking full-time union officials have spent most of their working lives under the Thatcherite political regime. They have adapted; they have taken on the wider ambitions of their members for less confrontational, more productive relationships with their employers.

In the private sector, at least, they are also party to a new kind of employee relations regime that has devolved much decision-making over the production process to the workforce. Thanks to the recession, unions and companies have become partners in a joint struggle for survival.

A new pragmatism and professionalism can be seen advancing within the ranks of the trade unions. In addition, the TUC will next unveil its "big idea": a campaign for a return to full employment. The project is shrewd, since it is sure to strike a chord at a time when many fear for their jobs, and those in work face a growing burden of taxation to support those who are not.

Mr Willis may not be the ideal general secretary to present it. However, he need not. The vanguard, this time, will be the leaders of the super unions.

And that will leave Mr Willis free to wave his goodbyes in his own good, and not so very distant, time.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Case for ending employers' NI contributions

From Mr R. Cooper

Sir, Whilst some ministers and MPs state that our economy is "bumping along the bottom", from the barricades of industry the situation is worsening almost daily.

In a nutshell, since 1945 our manufacturing industries have declined. Successive government attempts at halting this decline have been based on investment allowances, exchange and interest rate manipulation.

None has worked in the long term and whilst there is a current outcry to increase investment, reduce the value of sterling and lower interest rates, without a competitive labour cost any or all of these would not cure the steady decrease in our share of world manufacturing.

Our two prime resources are people and energy. The CBI states that 47 per cent of our manufacturing costs are personnel-related and of the 18 leading industrial nations, we are the only country self-sufficient in energy. Therefore, the imposition of 10.4 per cent National Insurance (NI) charge on personnel, as well as any taxes on exploration, drilling and/or distribution costs on oil and other fossil fuels are inappropriate.

There should only be a tax on consumption and not a preventive to production. Such levies and impositions should be applied to the results of the usage and not be a preventive beforehand.

For a government that considers itself to be non-interventionist, and further considers it has done much to remove the militancy of non-productive members of trade unions to ensure increased productivity and reduced inflation, it is inconsistent to impose the NI charge. This increases our

costs of manufacture, thereby making us less competitive and increasingly accounting ourselves out of business.

How many ministers or MPs would agree that it is sensible to impose a tax on the exports of our manufacturing and agricultural products? Yet this is the effect of these impositions. The government has not only intervened but has done so with these throttling constraints, albeit the method of the imposed charges was inherited.

With the current dilemma of the government, there is a prime opportunity to regenerate industry and give confidence to our people. The withdrawal of 10.4 per cent from our labour costs and a reduction in distribution levies, taxes and VAT on energy would considerably increase our export competitiveness.

The shortfall in the NI revenue to the government would be more than recouped from increased profits tax.

Lord Ridley of Liddesdale, a former minister of transport, is on record as stating that various taxes and levies by the government cannot be attributable and all revenue is collected for a central fund. Therefore, there is no cause for NI to be directly identifiable with industry.

If the Chancellor wished to use variations to ensure that the revenue is not lost to the Exchequer, many options are open to him, one being that no dividends should be paid prior to a first charge on profits tax equating to the waived NI contribution.

The result of the immediate removal of this historic charge, for so many years I thought out at its stage of imposition, would be to generate additional profitability immediately; reverse the trend of unemployment; start to gener-

ate additional profitability, which could then be taxed to reduce the PSBR; and give manufacturers and exporters a level playing field with thriving competitive manufacturing countries, such as Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and China.

The government has this immediate opportunity to obtain an improvement for the future of itself and its people and withdraw this self-imposed preventive and outdated preventive of prime resource use.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT COOPER, Coopers Holdings, Bridge House, Gipsy Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire.

Pensions abroad

From Mr C. Vincent Kerr

Sir, Not only are retirement pensioners living abroad denied pension increments, as Mr Burgess writes (*Business Letters*, August 27) but those who have to retire on grounds of ill health before reaching pensionable age (65 and 60 years respectively for men and women) are denied invalidity benefit altogether if they choose to live abroad, even though all requirement contributions have been paid.

One can see the general need to retain the possibility of supervision but there must be occasions when both the patient's GP and the government doctor would concur that a person's sickness is indeed permanent (or worse). In such cases, where is the justice of the restriction, especially for the over-60s? Yours faithfully, C. VINCENT KERR, 43 Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Reform of retirement rules

From Mr David Lindsay

Sir, As you rightly say (Comment September 1), there should be choice to draw the state pension from age 60 or to defer it, but the level at 60 should be no less than the current, basic pension, which is modest enough by international standards, and still no more than the 20 per cent average earnings level set by Beveridge 50 years ago.

This reform could be financed within the scheme, and so be of no concern to the Treasury, for example, by increasing NI contributions by 1 per cent of pay, which surveys show to be acceptable for the benefit it will achieve. An added bonus would be the impact state pension avail-

ability to 1.6 million men of age 60-65 would have not only on unemployment, but also in stimulating the economy through converting a form of income now more likely to be saved into one most likely to be spent.

Yours faithfully, DAVID LINDSAY, Past Chairman, Campaign for Equal State Pension Ages (CESPA), 36 Orchard Coombe, Whitechurch Hill, Reading, Berkshire.

Letters to *The Times Business and Finance* section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

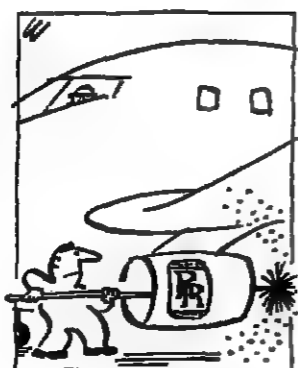
Crosthwaite woos Whitaker

LARGER than life stockbroker Robert Whitaker, until recently at Hoare Govett, will reappear on Monday at Henderson Crosthwaite, as a corporate finance director. Whitaker, aged 48, who laments that he is on yet another diet — although this time not sponsored for his pet charity, the October Club — and therefore off the drink, says his brief is to introduce corporate clients.

"Henderson Crosthwaite has never been a proper corporate broker," says Whitaker, who worked for Sheppards & Chase for 12 years, before joining Hoare Govett nine years ago. "It is an independent corporate broker with some bloody good analysts and it is going to be the next Cazenove." Peter Ross, Henderson's chairman, agrees with Whitaker's synopsis. "We are the only agency broker which has made significant profits every year since Big Bang," he says, "and our research will continue to be unfettered even though we have suffered from having a relatively small list of corporate clients. We now feel that the institutions would like us to take on more responsibility in that area." Charlie Hue Williams, ex-Kleinwort Benson, joined Henderson to develop its oil book and Ross hints that the staff list could soon grow further. "We are expanding," he says.

Heart rendering

LEGAL & General's charity boules competition, always intended to have a French fla-



your, now looks assured of being a thoroughly Gallic affair. The competition is in aid of Stuth, the heart research unit at St Thomas's Hospital. The date, set long before President Mitterrand ever thought of holding a referendum, is September 20, otherwise known as French "Maastricht day". Among those expected to attend is Edouard Bosh, managing director of L&G in France. Whether he is a *oui* or a *non* is not yet known but L&G chief executive David Prosser, who is hosting the event, will no doubt get a chance to find out on the day.

Seeing stars

THE friendly rivalry between London's top hotels took a poetic turn this week when the new Lanesborough Hotel, which claims to be "the first six star hotel in London", played host to the American Express Expressions Awards of Excellence — and lost out to its lowly five star competitor, Claridge. Claridge, criticised by the Lanesborough's general manager for not having a comprehensive air conditioning system, took the awards for

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No	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Abbey Mill	Bank/Disc	1.10
2	BTR	Industrial	1.10
3	Chinwest Ben	Bank/Disc	1.10
4	Smith WH A	Drugs/Ser	1.10
5	AB Food	Food	1.10
6	De La Rue	Industrial	1.10
7	Anes	Building/Rd	1.10
8	Rugby Group	Building/Rd	1.10
9	Bank Scotland	Bank/Disc	1.10
10	Whitbread	Food	1.10
11	Dela	Industrial	1.10
12	Lloyds	Bank/Disc	1.10
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Please take into account any bonus signs

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Biggest rise since election

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 24. Dealings end today. Settlement day September 14. Forward buyings are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Portfolio
PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000

Claims required for £63 points
Claimants should ring 0254-53272

No	Company	Group	Share Price
1	Abbey Mill	Bank/Disc	1.10
2	BTR	Industrial	1.10
3	Chinwest Ben	Bank/Disc	1.10
4	Smith WH A	Drugs/Ser	1.10
5	AB Food	Food	1.10
6	De La Rue	Industrial	1.10
7	Anes	Building/Rd	1.10
8	Rugby Group	Building/Rd	1.10
9	Bank Scotland	Bank/Disc	1.10
10	Whitbread	Food	1.10
11	Dela	Industrial	1.10
12	Lloyds	Bank/Disc	1.10
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BRIEFINGS

As more small businesses have realised that the BS5750 quality standard is going to affect them, the worries about it have risen, leading to considerable hostility over what is regarded as another bureaucratic imposition. The anxieties were made clear in the latest NatWest quarterly survey of small business (Derek Harris writes). Many are concerned that certification will raise costs without improving quality, the survey found. Others fear they will be forced out of business because they cannot avoid the cost of certification. Many also questioned how far BS5750 as it stands was relevant to small firms. Fifty-two per cent of the firms surveyed do not intend to take the certification road while a further 19 per cent are undecided. There were 2.5 per cent who had secured certification, 8 per cent were currently doing so and a further 17 per cent plan to do so.

NatWest Survey of Small Business. from Small Business Research Trust, School of Management, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA; £15.

Eight country women, with a business idea and an interest in learning information technology skills, will start a Rural Women's Back to Business course on September 14 at Warwickshire Rural Enterprise Network. The free course at Stoneleigh Park, complete with day nursery, lasts about three months and includes all business subjects, plus word processing, spreadsheeting and desktop publishing. Trainees will have the opportunity to gain the RSA's small business certificate. This is one of the first training initiatives for unemployed and returning women living in remote areas. An experimental course last spring led to enterprises such as mobile secretarial services, a wedding reception consultancy and business bed and breakfast, with fax and secretarial facilities. Five courses will be held by the end of 1993, with funding from the EC and Coventry & Warwickshire TEC. More details on 0203 696986.

To meet the interest in exporting shown by many small firms, an Export Business Briefing, giving an overview of the mechanics and the training available, has been produced by the Institute of Export. The booklet is free to members; non-members pay £1.50, plus 50p postage. Institute of Export, 64 Clifton Street, London EC2A 4HB. Telephone: 071-247 9812.

EDITOR DEREK HARRIS

Market research paved way for specialist holidays in Cumbria

By DAVID ASKHAM

MARKET research scored for Diana Stewart when, in her mid-fifties, she set up in business tailoring specialist holidays in Cumbria for a worldwide clientele.

She had taken early retirement from Newcastle University, where she had been a welfare services consultant for 14 years. Seeking inspiration on where to direct her life from there, she travelled to Germany and met two Canadian tourists. They were off to visit the English lakes on what sounded like a complicated, risky and stressful programme that had been devised by an agent.

Mrs Stewart felt sure she could do better. With an earlier background in the Royal Air Force—in photographic interpretation and administration—it was natural that she should decide first to carry out a reconnaissance.

Her market research, including scrutinising travel agents and tour operators in Europe and North America, was financed to the tune of 70 per cent by a grant from the trade department.

She found there was a need for in-country specialists, able to compile tailor-made itineraries for tourists seeking something more individual than packaged holidays.

By chance, in America, she came across a publication, *Specialty Travelling Index*, which lists international specialists. Whether a tourist wants to back-pack, cycle or chase wild animals, a travel agent can consult the reference book and pick an appropriate organiser in whatever country.

Mrs Stewart is listed for Cumbria, UK, as a specialist in history, archaeology, fell-walking and road tours. "It has produced a healthy number of clients," she says. "Satisfied clients also spread the word and generate more requests."

A nationally qualified Blue Badge Guide, Mrs Stewart takes pairs over analysing clients' needs and arranges travel, guides, accommodation and the cultural experiences requested. Some like to go to specific events.

Because the holiday business is seasonal, Mrs Stewart has also diversified. She produces a compilation of information on events, *What's On In Cumbria*, which she supplies to hotels, guest houses and other clients, including the area's information centres, against payment of an annual subscription. An additional fee secures monthly updates. She reckons that this



Vacation organiser: Diana Stewart, right, hopes for a profit in her fourth year in the business

information service now contributes half her income. It seems to be reliable — most subscribers have renewed more than once.

The business is into its fourth year and Mrs Stewart says: "I believe I could be earning a living from it in about two years' time."

Her first year of heavy capital

spending — on a car and office equipment — consumed a loan from the West Cumbria Development Agency. The second year saw a small operating loss and the third looks as if it will come out at about breakeven at the operating level.

Mrs Stewart believes the current year could produce a moderate

operating profit. She says: "Part of my planning strategy was to build up a business, which I could continue for some years, even if, in the future, my health precluded my doing the energetic aspects of guiding. Moreover, when I want to retire, I will have a business which could have a sale value."

Small firms seek change to uniform business rate

By SALLY WATTS

CHANGES to ease the impact of the uniform business rate (UBR) on small firms are being sought by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB). Otherwise, it believes, more entrepreneurs will be driven out of business. John Harris, FSB's rates chairman, will meet John Redwood, the minister for local government, next week to ask for changes, including a banding system based on property values.

Mr Harris, who is also the FSB national chairman, said: "The UBR is hitting small companies

very hard and, with the recession, is a factor in putting them out of business." Ultimately, he wants the UBR abolished in favour of a rate based on a business's size, success and ability to pay. At present, it is based on the "height of property values in 1988".

A big disadvantage for small firms, such as the FSB's 50,000 members, is that most authorities have failed to inform business ratepayers that they are entitled to apply for relief on hardship grounds. So only £23,000 was

remitted in 1990-1, from a total UBR income of £15 billion. Yet Section 49 of the 1988 Local Government Finance Act states that authorities may reduce or remit rates for businesses suffering hardship — the FSB fought for "hardship" to replace the original word "poverty".

When the inadequate response of town halls was shown by an FSB survey last spring, Mr Redwood made clear that local authorities have discretion to help businesses. He said: "They may reduce or

Contact gives lonely the opportunity to make friends

By CHRISTOPHER BROWNE

WHEN Wilma Tait's marriage broke up she decided she had three priorities — first, she needed money, second, she wanted to be busy and third, she sought companionship. So she started a singles agency for the over 50s, called Contact.

Mrs Tait used £10,000 from her husband's settlement to buy a desktop computer, photocopier and office furniture. She then asked her son, a graphic designer, to create letterheads and stationery, converting the front room of her home in Caversham Heights, Reading, Berkshire, into an office.

Mrs Tait put an advertisement in the *Management Retirement Guide*, which brought about 30 replies. Their names, addresses, telephone numbers and interests were immediately put on computer, forming Contact's first pool of single people. Her ideas were then followed up by the *Reading Evening Post*, which drew more people on to the over 50s register.

Mrs Tait had been doing voluntary social work for several years and she was asked to appear on a BBC television programme about the elderly. In the show she spoke of the problems the over 50s faced when going on holiday alone. As a result, more than 200 viewers wrote to the BBC. Mrs Tait had now collected a nucleus of interested people.

After the television show, Mrs Tait drew up a list of events for her new Contact members, including fortnightly visits to museums, art galleries and National Trust parks and guided tours of London, where members of both sexes could meet

and enjoy each other's company. She then organised coach trips to places of interest — and finally two-week holiday tours.

Individuals pay £38 to join the Contact register. They can also join a Contact pen-friends' club "to revive the lost art of writing" and a club for those who are alone at Christmas.

Contact at first only covered London and the Home Counties. However, Mrs Tait wrote to regional newspapers and magazines that featured her ideas and the agency spread all over England and even gained two clients in South Africa.

Mrs Tait also contacted council social services departments, which put Contact in their directories as well as Age Concern, which put it in its literature. Mrs Tait arranged introduction meetings for members during the first year, but found they tended to make members too self-conscious. She now concentrates on events.

Contact has a total of 1,500 people on its register. Mrs Tait said: "I wouldn't describe myself as a marriage bureau, more as a friendly club for the lonely and like-minded."

She won a Berkshire small business award for service to the community earlier this year. Contact's overheads are minimal. Mrs Tait's house is paid for and her two "employees" are her son and her daughter, a personnel manager, who helps with replies to some of her letters.

Now she plans to start a singles register for the 18-30s and is negotiating a sponsorship deal from a leading holiday firm.



"Plant investment? — the nearest I got to that is my yucca tree!"

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INTERESTED IN COMPUT

Big might not mean best

Supercomputers
are under threat
from high power
'clusters', says
Matthew May

Speed is not everything in much of the computer world, as some computer purchasers have discovered when buying the wrong machine just because it came out faster in tests against the competition.

In the more arcane world of supercomputers, however, speed has traditionally counted for much. The handful of manufacturers involved in their production are continually vying to win the accolade of fastest computer in the world, and, with it, the hope of attracting customers with the sort of number-crunching activities where speed continues to play a crucial role.

Estimated to be a market worth more than a billion pounds this year by the research firm Dataquest, some of the highest profile uses of supercomputers — such as the search for the largest prime number or the best chess playing program — are often seen as frivolous or largely academic.

But equally there are far more serious tasks, such as the deciphering of coded messages in intelligence gathering — GCHQ, has a Cray supercomputer for example — the measurement of global warming or improving weather forecasting. Increasingly there are commercial uses, from the safer design of aircraft, tower blocks or oil rigs to complex financial planning.

Admiralty Research Establishment in Dunsfold uses a Cray supercomputer for its work on the design of ships and submarines while British Gas uses one to assess hazards in offshore and onshore operations.

Yet traditional supercomputer manufacturers have been facing stiff competition from other companies which, by linking together hundreds or thousands of mass produced and relatively cheap



The crunch: power costing millions of pounds on display as a Nissan Cefiro's aerodynamics are examined on a Cray Research supercomputer

computer chips, are producing systems described as massively parallel that can give immense computing power.

More competition is coming from advanced desktop "workstations" which when linked together in networks, can also rival the power of supercomputers built only a few years ago and at much cheaper prices.

Earlier this year the Lawrence Livermore laboratory in the United States cancelled plans to buy a supercomputer and instead ordered 14 high-powered workstations from IBM which will be "clustered" so that they can all work on a single problem at the same time.

The power of individual computer chips is increasing fast — so much so that Digital Equipment claims that the top performance of just one of its recently announced Alpha chips will be equivalent to the power of a basic supercomputer.

The result will be that today's supercomputer power will soon be available for

thousands rather than millions of pounds — a situation, it is argued, which will mean new applications will quickly become viable in the commercial world, such as image and speech processing.

Providing cheaper "power" is not just to do with chip speed, however. In March this year Sun Microsystems, which claims 40 per cent of the market for workstations, pulled off what some in the industry believe was a considerable coup. It hired Boris Babayan, a top Russian computer scientist, and 50 members of his team who developed the Elbrus-3 supercomputer used for the then Soviet space and nuclear weapons programme.

This week the company flew Dr Babayan and eight members of his team from their base in Moscow to Sun's headquarters in the heart of California's Silicon Valley to announce that a further 33 software engineers from Russia are to join the team.

Sun is not interested in Dr Babayan's supercomputer in

itself, but what he had to do to make it work fast. Because USSR hardware is considerably behind that of the West, Dr Babayan and his team are credited with having come up



Hired: Dr Boris Babayan

with extremely clever software tricks to speed up the machine as the only way to make the primitive hardware stand any chance of matching the performance of Japanese and American manufacturers.

The work of the new Russian employees, which will

now take place at offices in St Petersburg and Novosibirsk in Siberia as well as Moscow, will centre on compilers — which translate the English-like commands that programs are written in to the numerical instructions that a computer can understand.

Apart from technical expertise, Sun will also benefit from the fact that employing Russians in their homeland is extremely cheap. The 50 staff hired in March receive only a few hundred dollars a year — a reasonable salary locally but a fraction of what they would earn in the US.

"We can get a team of people for what it would cost for one or two in the US," David Ditzel, head of Sun's research unit told *Business Week* magazine in May. The savings on salaries alone will soon be running into several million dollars a year.

The spectre of cheap desktop competition means that traditional supercomputer manufacturers need to take continual and gigantic leaps in the power of the

machines they are developing if they are to stand any chance of being able to continue to charge millions of pounds for their efforts.

This is exactly what Fujitsu is promising with a machine to be introduced next week. The company claims that it will not only be the most powerful computer in the world but a "milestone in computing history" — one that will provide faster and more accurate solutions to the world's problems.

The new supercomputer will use a technique known as "highly vector parallel processing" which will tie together hundreds of chips. They will not be the cheap mass produced sort, however, but "vector" processors similar to those used in smaller numbers in traditional supercomputers.

The result will be both astonishingly fast and expensive — probably £40 million or more for a single machine compared to the company's current range, which costs from £1 million to £8 million each.

Loose fill packing could improve

Pop goes the foam

AN ECO-FRIENDLY version of the foam plastic beans that delicate office equipment is often packed in should be on the market in Europe this autumn.

Environmentalists have been seeking a replacement for the foam plastic beans for some years, as they are not recyclable, contain gases that deplete the ozone layer and consume limited resources. Unfortunately, their first attempt at a natural "loose fill" packing material was a disaster. It was popcorn.

Popcorn sounded ideal.

It is a renewable and biodegradable resource with no harmful by-products. It can be produced on the spot using inexpensive equipment. Theoretically, it could even be eaten when unpacked, instead of just spilling all over the carpet generating static electricity as foam plastic does.

"We were very keen to find a more environmentally friendly packaging than expanded polystyrene pellets, as we use 45 cubic feet of the stuff a week," says Carol Kent of Booklab, a library conservation laboratory in Austin, Texas, which is one of the few places to have examined popcorn packaging scientifically.

"The trouble with popcorn is that it is actually more expensive than polystyrene, and is eight times as heavy. If it gets damp it collapses, and being a foodstuff it is very attractive to rats. And it contains traces of the oil it is popped in, which can contaminate the items packed in it if they are not put in a bag first," she says.

Popcorn's performance was so bad that the idea was dropped. But a United States chemical company

has come up with a high-technology version which, it claims, has all of the benefits of popcorn but few of the drawbacks.

Eco Foam, developed by National Starch, is starch made from maize flour, extruded into a foam much like polystyrene but soluble in water. It is light and potentially cheap, and has none of the natural rubbish, such as husks and oils, found in popcorn. Once it is used, it simply dissolves away into biologically harmless carbohydrates.

Like popcorn, Eco Foam is a food starch, and it therefore has the same susceptibility to damp and rodents, but problems have so far been minimal, says Gerry Hurst, marketing manager of National Starch in Manchester. He says the product has been on sale for a year in the US and is about to arrive in Europe. Partners on the Continent are buying the extruders at a cost of £300,000 each to make Eco Foam, which should be on sale by the end of the year.

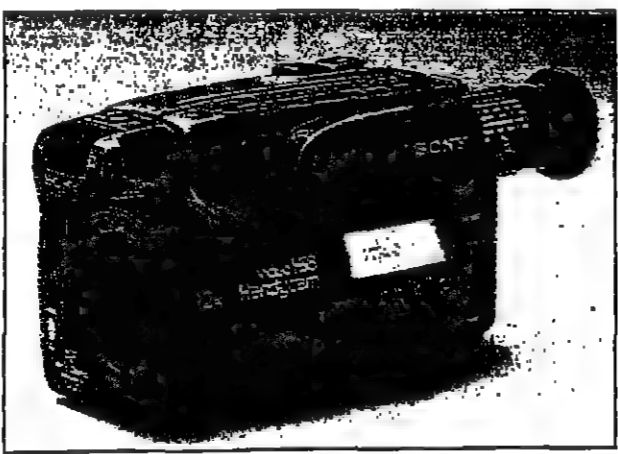
Will corn starch replace plastic foam? One problem is that environmentalists are less anti-polystyrene than they used to be. Most of the manufacturers have abandoned CFCs in blowing the foam, and even the disposal problem is not seen as particularly serious as polystyrene is not toxic.

Friends of the Earth campaigner Penny Walker prefers to attack the problem of packaging as a whole. "Packaging is about a third of what is found in an average British dustbin and that builds up to a significant amount in landfill," she says.

CHRIS PARTRIDGE

Shake, rattle 'n' film

The video camera has gone one step further in quality of pictures



Cutting down on wobble: the Steady Shot costs £1,100

Many home video recordings suffer from a very serious problem — camera shake. The problem has grown as the size and weight of combined video cameras and recorders, or camcorders, has shrunk.

Sales have boomed — more than 500,000 were sold last year in the United Kingdom compared to just 70,000 five years ago, according to a report from market analysts, Euromonitor.

"Camcorders used to be bought mainly by 'tekkies' who had to have the latest gadgets. Now they are predominantly purchased by families and sales peak around the summer and Christmas holidays," the report says.

The first camcorders were so large and heavy that users had to use both hands to support the machine — some models were even designed to be placed on the shoulder to provide a stable platform for recording.

However, many modern day camcorders are becoming almost as compact as a 35mm film camera, and some models weigh less than a bag of sugar, even when loaded up with a battery and tape. This has led many people to operate their camcorder with one hand — a practice which can greatly increase camera shake.

Now the electronics company Sony — which has more than a quarter of the British market — has introduced an

£1,100 camcorder which it says will significantly reduce the effects of camera shake. The system, Steady Shot, has been developed with Canon and, unlike other systems, is optical rather than electronic.

Panasonic, for example, uses microchips on several of its camcorders which analyse the image for signs of shake and then electronically trim the edge of the picture where jitter is most noticeable. The central part of the image is then expanded to fill the frame. Mitsubishi has developed another system which uses sensors to detect camera movement and electronic processing to reduce shake.

Sony claims, however, that unlike electronic systems, the optical method does not cause a reduction in picture quality.

Modern camcorders work by passing light through a lens and on to a light-sensitive image chip known as a CCD. When a camcorder is jolted, the light passing through the lens is bent or refracted. The resulting image suffers from shake.

The Steady Shot camcorder places a prism in front of the lens which consists of two glass plates joined together by a flexible plastic material containing liquid — the flexible ring works like the bellows on an accordion player.

The developers say that the liquid has been designed to work through a range of temperatures, from 30-80°C, so that the camcorder can be used almost anywhere while the plastic ring can be flexed more than eight million times before breaking.

When sensors detect camera movement the glass plates are squeezed together. This alters the angle of the light passing through the lens to compensate for any shake, and the image remains steady.

Work on Steady Shot began in 1987 and the original intention was to use it for still film cameras. However, Canon and Sony realised that there could be a greater demand from video users. Canon is expected to sell its version of video cameras using the system in Europe next year. Film cameras using a similar system are also expected.

Sony says that as consumer electronics items become more compact, the requirement for anti-shake systems will grow. "People want portability from their products, but they also demand quality," Chris Baker, a Sony spokesman, says.

The company recently displayed a new portable compact disc player which has a "jog-proof" system, which enables the machine to play normally when it is knocked or jolted.

GEORGE COLE

Double the power

RECHARGEABLE batteries with twice the power capacity of most existing ones are to be produced next year in a joint venture between two large Japanese companies, Toshiba and Asahi Chemical.

The lithium ion batteries made by the new firm have about twice the power capacity of nickel cadmium batteries, currently the most popular

ON LINE

kind for electronics use. This means that a laptop computer, which lasts for up to three hours with most current batteries, could run for about six.

Costly choice

SOFTWARE that will automatically test whether new programs will run properly can be particularly attractive for the cost-conscious computer department.

But many of the products

advertised as Computer Aided Software Testing (CAST) do not provide the benefits claimed, according to a report by the research firm, Ovum, which has tested 17 of the leading packages available.

"Many are first generation and provide a fraction of the power and ease of use of the newer, second generation tools, but people are still buying them," says Dr Stephen Norman, the author of the study.

Testing play

MANY stores keep computer games under lock and key fearing that youngsters will turn their shops into amusement arcades if they are allowed to play with demonstration machines. More than 200 Comet stores have thrown caution to the wind with "Gamesmaster Zones" designed to let people "play before they pay". More than

250 titles from Sega, Nintendo and Commodore are available — all of which can be tested before purchase.

Data device

IBM has introduced a high-end model of its popular minicomputer line. The company says it provides 20 per cent more processing power than the current top model and will cost £486,000.

The AS-400 line is one of IBM's most profitable and successful products. Introduced four years ago, the line today has more than 175,000 systems installed worldwide.

IBM has also introduced a data storage device for the AS-400. The device links a number of inexpensive hard drives similar to those found in personal computers. This array replaces the larger single hard discs usually used to store information for the AS-400 computers. The advantage is that if one of the multiple discs fails, the rest of the storage system can keep operating.



British Airways demands the best for its passengers by constantly improving customer service and co-ordinating ground operations more effectively. Indeed, with passenger volumes set to double by the year 2000, British Airways has recognised the need for a mobile data system to give staff first hand, real-time access to information. Naturally, they saw the opportunity to combine their own business acumen and technical skills with those of RAM Mobile Data.

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The Cruel C:\>

Not so long ago, PC users feared the world of the "C:" prompt. Copying a file meant a two minute flick through a thick manual to find the right syntax. With the advent of Microsoft Windows 3.1, left point 'n' clicks banish tortuous DOS commands. If your PC is still Window-less, let Morse glaze you.

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
Bowler reaches his landmark as Derbyshire prosper

Well-travelled Taylor presses his claims for place on tour

Yorkshire may go for Allott

Capel's capers fall just short of mark

Hopes go west as rain has final word again



Kendrick: 50 wickets

England A tour a chance for new batch of seamers

TCCB seeks sponsors for World Cup bid

□ Clive Rice, the former South African captain, who has been omitted from the provisional squad for matches against India later this year, has left Transvaal after 22 years to play for Natal.

Umpire and ICC vexed by fax report

The ICC, however, said that no fax had been received at Lord's yesterday. Cowdrey has a fax machine at his home near Arundel, but it has been out of order for the past 24 hours. He is likely to make a statement about ball-tampering in general next week, when he is expected to announce that he will ensure it will be stamped out.

No play yesterday

WORCESTER: Worcestershire 409 for 7 dec (G A Hick 148, S J Rhodes 118 not out). Warwickshire 210 for 6 (A J Miles 85 not out). **BOWLING:** Radford 14-3-47-0, Newport 13-5-22-1; Kingworth 39-12-56-2; Talley 6-2-14-0, Lempit 6-0-18-0, D'Oliveira 2-0-0-0, Weston 2-1-4-0, Hick 12-5-32-30. **Match Drawn:** Worcestershire Spots, Warwickshire 4.

CORRECTION: Warwickshire extras w 1,

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Yorkshire v Northants		M G Packed-Buss & Bowler & Warner		175, 8-178, 6-178, 7-212, 8-218.		A P ven Trouton not out	
A All out not out		13		BOWLER, KC, Lewis 13-25, 0, Carnes 10-1-0-1		Extras (2, 0, 4, 0, 0)	
Extras (0, 1, 1, 1, 3, 0, 2)		13		A, Allard 25 1-41-4, Packed-Buss 11-32-1		Total	
Total		385		Umpires J C Bester and A J Humpsh		Score after 10 overs: 207-5	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-38, 3-54, 4-91, 5-123, 6-144, 7-312, 8-380, 9-385		385		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 10-1-0-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		10, 6-222, 7-286, 8-342, 9-342	
G A Kicket 56, P W Picket 50, M Picket 17		385		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0	
Second Innings		385		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		Total	
M D Mason not out		101		THE OVAL (first day of tour): Surrey (6 bats) drew with Somerset (3)		Score after 10 overs: 207-5	
A Kicket 56, P W Picket 50, M Picket 17		101		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		10, 6-222, 7-286, 8-342, 9-342	
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A Kicket 56, P W Picket 50, M Picket 17		101		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		Total	
A Kicket 56, P W Picket 50, M Picket 17		101		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		Score after 10 overs: 207-5	
A Kicket 56, P W Picket 50, M Picket 17		101		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		10, 6-222, 7-286, 8-342, 9-342	
A Kicket 56, P W Picket 50, M Picket 17		101		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-32-1, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0, 1-0-0-0		BOWLING: M G Packed-Buss 11-3	

LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

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☐ Compiled by Richard Lockwood

England abandon tradition and the white of Rugby School



Webb in the 1990 shirt



Carling in 1991 World Cup livery



Morris, left, and Pears sport the home and away kit

THE all-white strip in which England's rugby union teams played for more than a century derived from the colour worn at Rugby School, where the laws relating to what is now recognised as a world game were first formalised (David Hands writes). However, the 1992 grand slam team may have been the last to appear in all white, now that the Rugby Football Union (RFU) has agreed to incorporate colour into the design.

A four-year contract between the union and Cotton Traders, the sports and leisurewear company, was announced yesterday and means that, within a year, England will have worn three different designs: the 1991 World Cup shirt, the traditional white strip and the new shirt which was modelled for the first time at Twickenham yesterday by Dewi Morris, the Orrell and England scrum half, and David Pears, the Harlequins and England stand-off half, who wore the change strip.

England's first appearance in their new

strip will be against Canada at Wembley on October 17, but replicas will be on sale immediately: the only difference is that the company logo, which features prominently on the replica, will not appear at international matches.

Richard Field, the RFU marketing manager, denied that the union was seeking to emulate football clubs, whose playing strips change with some regularity. Fran Cotton, one of the three former England captains who are directors of Cotton Traders, made the point that even when the only decoration on an England jersey was a rose, the design of the rose changed from time to time.

The former prop appreciated that the change from all white would upset some traditionalists, but said: "I was very proud to play for England and wear the shirt. I am sure the players will feel exactly the same way. Nostalgia has a certain place in the world but it's a changing world." Shirt deal, page 26

Fletcher guides his county to sixth championship to complete an appropriate farewell

Gooch opens up as Essex retain title

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

ANY remaining doubt that Essex reign unchallenged in county cricket was banished yesterday by their sixth championship triumph. Not since their first 14 seasons ago, have they had to conquer such improbable odds to land the competition which means more to their players than anything else in the game.

As the familiar champagne scene at Chelmsford was re-enacted for the faithful at Twickenham yesterday, the demeanour of Graham Gooch, the Essex captain, and Keith Fletcher, the county's coach who is leaving to be England team manager, told all. Never, in all his international glories, has Gooch looked as animated as he does when his beloved Essex have something to celebrate, while Fletcher looked no different from the kind old uncle he resembles, the pride

and emotion in his voice was unmistakable.

"A brilliant performance," Fletcher said, wonder in his voice. "If anyone had told me at the start of the season that Neil Foster would break down when he did, I would have said we had no chance of winning it this year."

A crowd of around 3,000 had watched Essex overcome some Hampshire defiance before asserting themselves in the accustomed way. The win which sealed the Britannic Assurance title with two matches to play, and £46,000 in prize-money, was achieved by eight wickets, with more than two hours to spare.

They took 22 points from this match, putting them out of reach of Kent and Northamptonshire, and unless the adrenalin is drained along with the bottles of champagne, they could end up with a 50-point winning margin.

The turning-point in the title race came, ironically, when Essex and Hampshire met for the first time this summer, at Bourne-mouth in June. Hampshire, leading the table and on a roll, made Essex follow on and yet contrived to lose. Since then, Essex have won seven games out of 12, leading the table for the last ten weeks of the season.

Remarkably, Essex have sustained this momentum without Foster and Mark Waugh, while Gooch has frequently been absent with England. Hussain has twice broken fingers and Garmham and Prichard have both



Champions at spray: Gooch, right, releases the celebratory champagne while his Essex team-mates rejoice at Chelmsford yesterday

COUNTY TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bt	Pts
Essex (1)	20	10	5	5	60	58	278
Kent (2)	20	8	2	10	54	47	228
Northants (10)	21	7	4	10	58	55	225
Derbys (3)	20	7	4	9	45	55	212
Leics (16)	21	7	8	6	36	57	205
Notts (4)	20	6	6	8	48	53	197
Middle (15)	20	5	2	13	57	56	193
Warwick (2)	20	5	7	8	48	53	191
Surrey (5)	20	5	6	9	54	47	181
Glouce (13)	21	5	8	10	45	54	179
Hants (9)	21	4	8	11	59	54	177
Sussex (11)	20	4	7	9	53	53	170
York (14)	21	4	5	12	54	52	170
Lancs (6)	20	3	5	12	66	46	162
Worce (7)	21	3	4	14	52	61	161
Somerset (17)	20	3	4	13	56	54	158
Glam (12)	20	3	4	13	48	45	141
Durham (-)	20	2	8	10	40	50	122

*includes abandoned match

missed important games. "A lot of responsibility shifted on to the younger players," Gooch said, "and they came up with the goods."

Essex's secret is that they have steadily and skillfully filtered new blood into their side so that at no stage has wholesale rebuilding been necessary. Gooch said as much yesterday, only after he had taken the microphone and told the cheering crowd: "We play to entertain. You know that. You keep watching and we'll try to keep winning."

Clutching the championship trophy, Gooch was fretfully trying to complete interviews and return to his players. This is the third time they have won the title under his captaincy but he was happy to hand the credit to Fletcher, who captained Essex to their first three titles and masterminded the rest.

Fletcher's feelings were inevitable mixed. "I'm happy," he said. "Very happy. But maybe tomorrow morning there will be a touch of sadness."

It would be a weird time to leave Essex after all these years and it will feel strange not being involved here next year. But I am sure my duties with Eng-

land will bring me back to Chelmsford pretty regularly." Looking back at the "amateurish" Essex side he joined in the 1960s, Fletcher explained the wisdom he gleaned from those days. "Yorkshire were winning everything then. They were the side everyone looked up to," he said. "When I became captain I tried to copy a lot of the traditions of that side and I think players now have the same pride in playing for Essex as they did in playing for Yorkshire then."

No club has won the championship three times in succession since Yorkshire did so between 1966 and 1968. Fletcher, in fact, believes that Essex can emulate that next year. Four-day cricket, he says, will suit them even better, "so long as Foster is fit again."

If Foster fails to regain fitness, these brilliant champions could falter. Their batting strength is awesome but it is Fletcher's one regret, as he steps up, that he is leaving a club precariously short of depth in bowling.

A-team prospects, page 26
Taylor's case, page 26
Derbyshire win, page 26

Stephenson and Prichard steady the journey home

By Jack Bailey

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): Essex (22pts) beat Hampshire (6) by eight wickets

AT 3.35pm yesterday, Essex retained their county championship, but it was a harder struggle than an eight-wicket victory might indicate, and it was well into the afternoon before John Stephenson and Paul Prichard established themselves to such effect that victory became inevitable.

But establish themselves they did, to the tune of an unbeaten partnership of 133 from 31 overs after Gooch and Lewis had perished with only 32 runs scored of the 165 Essex needed to win.

When Gooch left, caught at short leg off Turner's second ball in the last over before lunch, Hampshire were buzzing. When Lewis left another ball from Turner and it hit his stumps, Hampshire were positively rejoicing. Thus far, Stephenson had resisted bravely

but without conviction and thoughts of an improbable victory were alive.

In company with Prichard, though, and with Marshall's initial venom drawn, Stephenson came into his own. He stepped down the wicket to Turner and hit him straight, downwind, for six. While Prichard eased the ball past cover's left hand and square on the leg side, Stephenson stood up and drove both Turner and Udal into submission. Suddenly, Essex were on top, and there they remained.

Stephenson's 83 and Prichard's 55 came during the highest partnership of the match and contained some of the best batting; it was worthy of champions. But there had been little encouragement early on as Aymes extended Hampshire's overnight lead in company with Turner.

It was an hour into the day before the two were separated and it took the new ball and the first in-judicious stroke by Turner in an hour and a half

to achieve it. The worthy Aymes, with the hobbling Shine, was finally caught at long-on, after four hours which had given Essex more than enough to think about it.

HAMPSHIRE: First innings 223 (P M Smith 4 for 28)
Second innings
T C Middleton c Stephenson b Prichard 2
M D James b Prichard 16
D A Smith b Smith 23
R A Smith b Smith 23
M C Nicholson c Prichard b Gooch 12
M D Marshall c Prichard b Gooch 12
J R Aymes c Gooch b Prichard 21
P A Hynes c Gooch b Prichard 22
S D Udal c Garmham b Stephenson 22
J Turner c Garmham b Gooch 16
R J Shine not out 6
Extras (b 6, lb 10, nb 6) 22
Total 223

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-22, 3-36, 4-37, 5-65, 6-83, 7-119, 8-172, 9-217.
SCORING: Just 18-4-4-2: Prichard 20-3-6-23; Smith 20-13-46-1; Gooch 25-17-67-3; Today 2-0-7-0, Stephenson 3-2-5-1

ESSEX: First innings 228 (P J Prichard 82, J Turner 5 for 6)
Second innings
G A Gooch c Middleton b Turner 19
J P Stephenson not out 43
J B Lewis b Turner 4
P J Prichard not out 56
Extras (b 3, nb 1) 4
Total (2 wickets) 165

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-32.
SCORING: Marshall 11-3-35-0; Aymes 6-3-4-0; Turner 14-5-6-2; Udal 10-0-40-2; Smith 6-2-0-0.
Umpires: A G T Whitehead and G Sharp.

A portrait of our art schools



IN the Saturday Review this week, the role politics is playing in our art schools. Plus, how British squaddies are turning a Cypriot resort into a battlefield, and P.J. O'Rourke in Vietnam.

THE TIMES

Wright misses Spain game

IAN Wright has withdrawn from the England squad for the game in Spain next Wednesday although his thigh strain may not keep him out of the Arsenal team visiting Wimbledon tomorrow.

Graham Taylor consulted the Arsenal manager, George Graham, before announcing the withdrawal yesterday of last season's top scorer in the first division. The England manager decided that the fitness of the £2.5million forward, who has been restricted by injury from the start of the season, would not be helped by playing for England. "Ian has been carrying an injury and you can get away with that at club level," Taylor said. "But there is no way I as an international manager can play a player in that situation."

Wright was disappointed to be left out of the England squad for the European championship finals in Sweden this summer but Graham

has made it clear that the player is desperate to represent his country again. Wright is replaced by Kevin Campbell, his Arsenal colleague, who had been placed on stand-by. Taylor has rewarded Les Ferdinand for a fine start to the season by adding the Queen's Park Rangers for-



Iace: promoted

ward to the stand-bys. Paul Ince, of Manchester United, has been promoted to the full list as replacement for Trevor Steven.

England may face five members of the victorious Spanish Olympic team. They are the Atlético Madrid defenders, Juanma Lopez and Roberto Solozabal, the Barcelona pair, Albert Ferrer and Josep Guardiola, plus Alfonso Perez, of Real Madrid.

SPAIN'S SQUAD: A Zubizarreta (Barcelona), J Lopez (Levante), R Alcaraz (Atletico), R Solozabal, A Munoz, A Lopez, J Lopez (at Atletico Madrid), A Ferrer (Barcelona), G Barnard (Olympique), J Zubizarreta (Atletico Madrid), G Arce, J Guardiola (both Barcelona), Michel (Real Madrid), R M Vazquez (Marsella), F Gomez (Valencia), J M Belandier, A Gollaschewski (both Barcelona), A Perez (Real Madrid), A Carreras (Valencia), D Fonseca (Espanol).

© Dion Dublin, Manchester United's £1-million signing, was recovering yesterday from a three-hour operation on his fractured right fibula. He was injured on Wednesday in a tackle by Eric Young, of Crystal Palace.

FA orders cup tie to be replayed

WHEN John Hutter, the Chichester City secretary, heard an announcement before his club's FA Cup preliminary round tie at Whitehawk in Brighton last Saturday that the match would go to extra time if necessary, he hastened to the referee's room to protest (Walter Gammie writes).

His objection to the decision of Robert Morris, from Gosport, who had gained the consent of the Chichester manager and the Whitehawk assistant-manager was upheld yesterday by the FA, which decided the clubs must replay the tie - won 5-2 by Whitehawk after a 2-2 draw at full time - on Saturday.

Chichester have appeared once in the FA Cup first round proper, in 1960, when they were thrashed 11-0 by John Aiyee-inspired Bristol City.

Unhappy Chesnokov is glad of break for rain

New York: The first rain of the United States Open fell yesterday, on the fourth morning, just as Jim Courier was beginning to exert some semblance of control over Andrei Chesnokov in the second round of the men's singles (Andrew Longmore writes).

The No. 1 seed was leading 4-6, 6-3, 3-1 when a drizzle set in, but he was still a long way from completing his first victory in six meetings over the enigmatic Russian.

Chesnokov was so unhappy with the slippery conditions he staged his own protest, marching to his chair in the middle of the fourth game of the third set and refusing to move. British umpire, Sultan Gangji, persuaded him to continue, but brought the players off after just one more point for a break which lasted just over 45 minutes. But after the Jimmy Connors birthday

party the previous evening, it was all a little tame.

The stadium crowd was barely a quarter full and both players seemed to sense the mood of anti-climax, which will probably not be lifted until Connors, an easy winner over Jaime Oncins, takes on Ivan Lendl in the next round, probably tomorrow night.

Connors's last victory over Lendl was eight years and 16 matches ago, in Tokyo. But, of the two, he looked rather more convincing in the first round. Another member of the older generation, Pam Shriver, was also giving a good account of herself when rain halted play. Shriver, twice a semi-finalist, was down a set and 4-3 to the No. 2 seed, Steffi Graf, who did not lose another game on the resumption, winning 7-5, 6-3.

Connors on song, page 26

Missile attack
Muslim
blamed
plane

Enquiry

Zinkov jaded

Chrisie out

Basch

Degree results

MI

WEEDS